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GIVE US A CHANCE

By Bruce Campbell

SYDNEY Olympic coach Branko Culina has made an impassioned plea for the game's governing authorities to appoint an Australian-based coach to head our next World Cup campaign.

Speaking frankly Culina told *Inside Soccer* of his fears that Ericsson Cup club coaches would be overlooked once again.

"Look, I have no problem whether I get the job or not," he said, "but surely it is time that a coach stepped up from the Ericsson Cup?"

"Recently I was told by a Sydney journalist that both myself and Angie Postecoglou would be overlooked.

"Why?"
"When I asked that I was told 'you know why'."

"But that is bullshit." Culina was clearly making reference to the anti-ethnic feeling which still runs strongly through certain sections of the

game and he obviously fears that the powers-that-be will choose to pacify the masses by making an Anglo appointment - rather than one based on talent.

But Culina also fears that another disaster of the magnitude of the Venables appointment, when a big-money coach was appointed without any local knowledge, could set the game back irrevocably.

It was Venables' blunder in dropping Ivanovic for the crucial decider against Iran that cost the Socceroos the ultimate prize, a place in the World Cup finals.

"I wouldn't have a problem if they selected someone like David Mitchell," added Culina.

"He is a good coach and is doing well just now."

"I have nothing to fear, I don't care whether I get the job or not so that is why I can genuinely say what I think."

"But there are a number of good coaches at club level in our game - one of them should get a chance."

Culina has also made a sound case for establishing a system in which up to four locally-based coaches could be involved - in either a part time or full time capacity.

"That would be great for the game," he says.

"It would give coaches a definite career path because if the highest level is the NSL then it just isn't enough."

"Look at Dave Ratcliffe and Ken Murphy."

"They are both excellent coaches but they aren't employed in the NSL because there aren't enough jobs."

"Who would give up a lucrative career to take up coaching when the whole business is so precarious?"

Already Wollongong Wolves boss Nick Theodorakopoulos is on the verge of moving overseas

because of the greater opportunities and there are fears that Culina could join him.

"When I was in Italy recently they laughed at my wages," he candidly admits.

"I'm one of the best paid coaches in Australia yet in Italy a coach of a village regional Serie C team gets paid twice as much."

"Why should we stay?"
"People seem to forget that there are so many Aussie youngsters playing overseas because our coaching in Australia is so good."

"We get no credit for it."

The news that Englishman Roy Hodgson has reportedly rejected a \$645,000 offer to take over at the helm of the Socceroos is not likely to appease Culina either.

Despite denials from Soccer Australia, Hodgson confirmed to an English newspaper over the weekend that he had been offered the position.

"I met them," he said. "They outlined what



they're looking for in a coach and they have intimated that I would be a candidate."

"The job was definitely mentioned."

That news is more likely to be a confirmation of Culina's fears.

"If they think we (NSL

coaches) don't have the experience then I would be all in favour of the appointment of a Technical Director."

"Maybe someone like Eddie Thomson, Frank Arok, Zoran Matic, Raul Blanco or Les Scheinflug."

"But we have the talent within Australian."

"If Soccer Australia does the right thing then they could set the game up for the next decade instead of just stumbling along."

"I just want to see them giving us a chance."

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Asia boycott averted - now

By Erskine McCullough

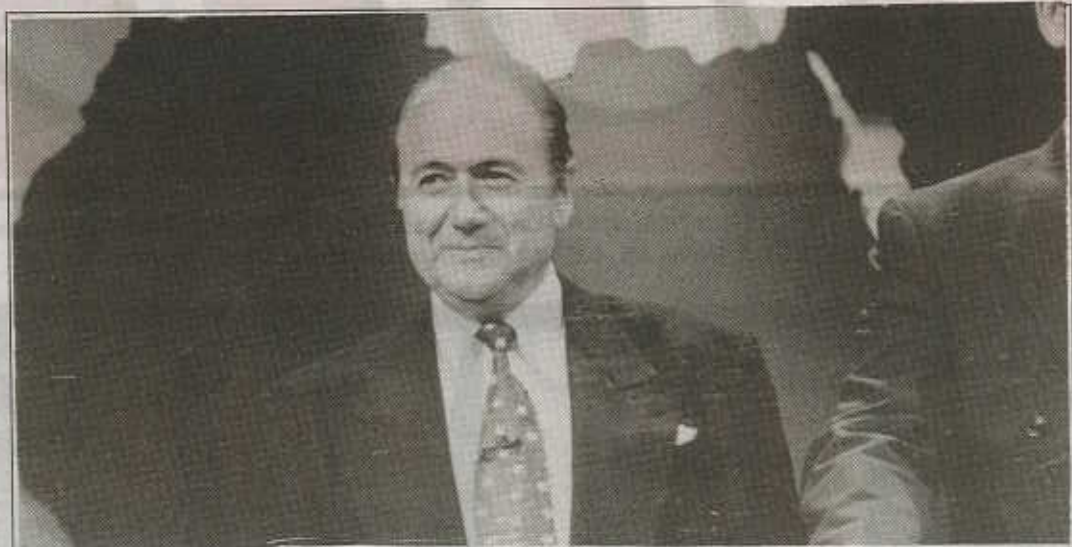
ASIA took a step nearer to winning an extra place in the 2002 World Cup finals when world football's ruling body avoided a showdown late last week and agreed to reconsider how the spots will be distributed.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) have threatened to boycott the first-ever World Cup to be hosted in Asia unless their number of places in the finals is increased.

FIFA's executive committee was supposed to take a decision tomorrow on Asia's appeal against the distribution of berths in the 32-team finals, but FIFA president Sepp Blatter managed to have all sides postpone a decision until July, when the executive committee will meet in Los Angeles.

Lennart Johansson, head of Europe's ruling body UEFA and a FIFA vice-president, said he supported the decision to continue to talk rather than force the issue.

AFC general-secretary Peter Velappan said Asia would be bitterly disap-



Sepp Blatter: trying to keep everyone happy

pointed if they did not get the extra place they were looking for.

"But I think it is a good sign for Asia that it has been set back to allow us more time for discussions.

"Europe are sympathetic towards us and we are gaining African support.

"Clearly FIFA realise we have a good case."

Even if the AFC go ahead with their boycott threat it will not affect

co-hosts South Korea and Japan.

The AFC delivered their ultimatum last December after FIFA announced that there would be only four Asian teams in the first ever finals to be co-hosted.

That would mean two places for the host nations with two more Asian teams to qualify.

In February, a six-man AFC delegation that included FIFA vice-president Chung Mong-

Joon of South Korea met with Blatter to push their case.

"FIFA spends millions of dollars to develop football. Asia has 45 members. It would be wrong if they did not agree to our request," said the South Korean.

At the heart of the dispute is FIFA's decision after the 1998 World Cup to have the winner of the Oceania group play-off against a South American team instead of an Asian

team for a spot in the finals.

Asia had three guaranteed representatives at France '98.

South Korea, Japan and Saudi Arabia all qualified directly while Iran defeated Australia in a play-off - under the so-called three-and-a-half places formula.

In a bid to give FIFA room to manoeuvre, the AFC demanded two half places when they met Blatter last month.

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World XI and AFL heading for clash

By Paul Millar

Organisers of the Soccerroos' showpiece showdown against a FIFA XI, to officially open the Olympic stadium, have urged the AFL to avoid going head to head with the June 12 game.

Dean Jones, a director of Left Field Solutions, said the AFL would do better if it switched its Saturday night game between North Melbourne and West Coast across the city at the Sydney Cricket Ground to Sunday.

"Then it could be a win-win situation for everybody, people could make a real weekend of

it," the former Test batsman said.

Jones said tickets for the soccer game were ahead of expectations and there had been little publicity about the official opening of the Homebush ground and the world XI squad had not yet been announced.

FIFA is expected to announce a World XI squad of 30 shortly.

Jones said while the double header rugby league game at the stadium had been an outstanding success attracting a world record league crowd of 104,000 the official opening would be a more lavish affair with plenty of surprises.

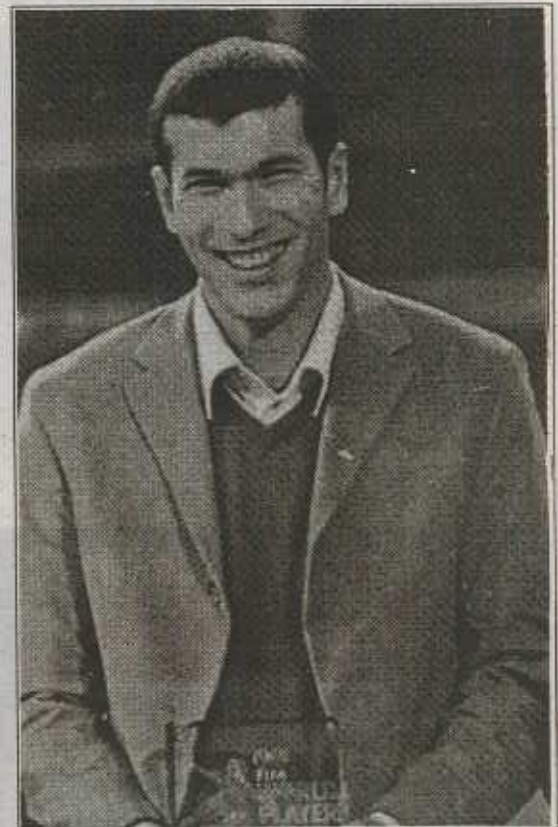
North Melbourne is still undecided what to do as it is trying to establish itself as a Saturday night side and broaden its support base in Sydney.

Kangaroos chief executive Greg Miller said the AFL had left it up to his club to determine when the game was played.

"We have not made up our minds yet," he said. However AFL chief Wayne Jackson realised that a soccer game featuring the world's best had the potential to overshadow the Australian Football League game.

"We are concerned about the clash of our AFL game against that soccer game," he told radio station 3AW.

"We are giving that thought at the present time because logically we would move the Kangaroos game to a Sunday, but we would then want to have a game played on Saturday night somewhere else," he said.



Zidane: heading for Sydney?

INSIDE SOCCER
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TUESDAY - coast to coast

The McMaster affair: "Leeds are robbers"

By Ian Parkes

SOCCER Australia's national youth coach Les Scheinflug blasted English premier league side Leeds today after it signed teenager Jamie McMaster.

Leeds signed McMaster, whose parents emigrated from Scotland in the late 1960s, after he was trained at one of Australia's two centres of soccer excellence.

"Who do they think they are? It's a bloody disgrace and something has to be done," Scheinflug said.

"These English clubs are like robbers, stealing our best young players, then blackmailing them by telling them the only way they will be signed is if they turn their back on Australia and play for England, Scotland or whoever.

"You cannot get any lower than that."

McMaster, a 16-year-old midfielder, played for Australia in a non FIFA-sanctioned under-17 friendly a year ago, only to be capped with England in an under-16

Championship match late last month.

It has left Soccer Australia bosses seething and considering the possibility of asking FIFA to look into the matter, as they believe McMaster has been forced to choose England ahead of Australia.

It is not the first club v country row to involve Leeds and Soccer Australia, with relations having been strained since Australian star Harry Kewell broke into the premier league with the Elland Road club.

Leeds' director of youth football, Alan Hill, defended the club's policy, especially relating to McMaster, who initially also had trials with Scotland before playing for England.

"We've made a decision, in discussions with the management, that any Australian kids we bring over must decide they are going to play for England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales, and not Australia," admitted Hill.

"We are making a big financial commitment, which includes the boys'

educational package, so we don't want to find ourselves losing them to international calls on the other side of the globe for maybe eight weeks every season.

"Our stipulation to boys coming to Leeds from Down Under has not gone down well, but we feel we are within our rights to take this line.

"I can understand Australia's objections but we have a lot to offer the boys, while the Aussies have nothing to offer in terms of professional contracts.

"If they could provide the opportunities that we can, we could have a real battle on our hands to persuade the lads to come here.

"But they want to come to us and further their careers.

"Their parents want them to come here too, especially when they see what Harry Kewell has achieved with us."

And Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale has refused to comment for fear of adding fuel to the fire, although he did broach the subject in a recent

column in the club's matchday magazine.

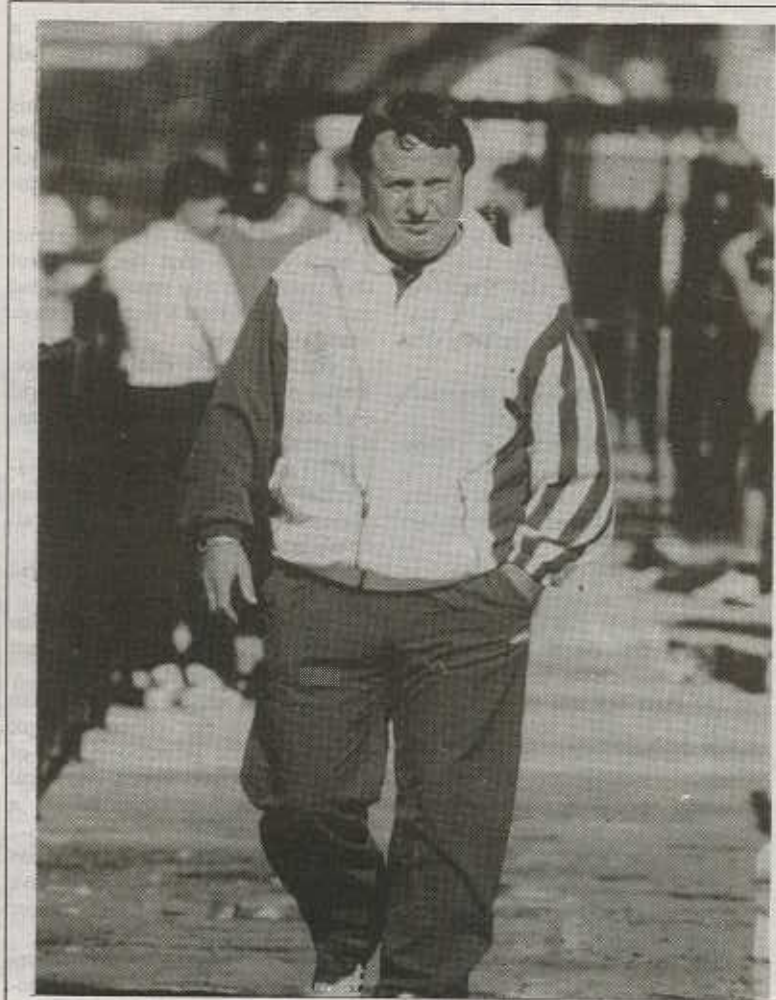
He said: "Ordinarily we will only take players from the southern hemisphere if they make themselves more readily available to Leeds United by qualifying for a northern hemisphere country, thereby fitting into the UEFA programme.

"That programme acknowledges free week-ends when internationals are being played.

"While our stance may risk that we miss out on the occasional talented player, we cannot risk having a team in which several players are missing for a large number of matches through international commitments on the other side of the world."

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper, meanwhile, admits world soccer's governing body have yet to receive an official letter of complaint.

He said: "We are aware of this matter, but there has been no official representations from the Australian federation."



Les Scheinflug

When four eyes are better than two

THE technical committee of world soccer's governing body has given its support to the proposal to have two referees on the field at the same time.

FIFA plans to run a trial in professional leagues on all continents starting in July and running for the whole of the 1999-2000 season.

The trial would probably see referees covering half the pitch each.

There was "lively debate" at the meeting of the technical committee and views differed on the subject, a FIFA statement said.

Eduardo Farah, the president of the Paulista League in Brazil, which has already carried out unofficial experi-

ments in about 200 lower division matches, said actual playing time was increased to more than 65 minutes out of the 90-minute match, and there were fewer fouls.

He added that the quality of refereeing improved because the two referees indirectly kept an eye on one another.

"Better to use four eyes than four video cameras," said Tahitian member Reynald Temarii, telling other members that a human improvement in refereeing was better than the use of new technology.

The technical committee did draw attention to possible problems with the system, such as differing interpretation

of the laws of the game and inadequate coordination between the two referees," the statement added. European soccer's governing body UEFA also said today it was expecting to be involved in a trial of the two-referee system.

The system has already been tried out in amateur matches on the British island of Jersey.

England's Premier League referee officer Philip Don welcomed the FIFA initiative.

"Full credit to FIFA for trying it, it'll be interesting and you've got to consider it," he said.

A report in the French sports daily L'Equipe said one trial would take place in the French second division.

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Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

I HAVE always made a policy of not commenting on my colleagues in the media.

Having been involved in Australian soccer journalism for the last nine years I know just how hard the job is.

Everyone, it seems, wants to have a shot at you.

If you write a topical piece then you are labelled as being 'negative'; if you write a promotional piece then you are a 'flunkey of the system'.

It seems that you can't win.

I had a call last week from a reader (at least he was up until the time I got fed up with his rude and bombastic attitude) who told me that "it was youse people who are holding the game back."

The good old Aussie expression, "youse people."

It seems that that particular phrase covers a multitude of things.

When asked for specifics, rather than blanket statements, that is far too often the response.

"Youse people are ruining the game"; "you are negative", and so on.

But the truth is that all a journalist does is report the news.

I know that I have written this before but there are still those who believe that a journalist holds some kind of quixotic grip on the mind's of soccer fans.

Anyway, back to the original point.

Elsewhere my friend and colleague Fred Legget has made comment on the apparent over-use by ABC TV commentator Alan Hunter of the phrase 'World Class save'.

Of course, world class can mean a lot of things to a lot of different people but to me it means only one thing; playing at a standard which would not be out of place anywhere in the world. In thirty adult years of watching soccer I have only ever seen three world class saves.

Surprisingly, or maybe not considering the time I have spent in this country, two of those have been in Sydney.

The last of my own 'world class saves' occurred at a Scottish Premier League match a few years ago, Hearts v Hibernian.

Andy Goram, the-then Hibs 'keeper, pulled off two outstanding saves which drew a standing ovation from the opposition crowd.

That was world class in itself.

Another was the miraculous save by Mark Bosnich in a match for the Soceroos against AC Milan in 1993.

Admittedly Milan were in holiday mode but they could certainly crank the pace up when they felt like it.

Bosnich was caught going the wrong way yet somehow did a mid-air jack-knife and pulled the ball out with one hand.

Sheer genius.

And the only other 'world class' save I have ever seen was made by Lev Yashin, at a match at the old Sydney Sportsground.

Yashin, the Black Cat, stopped a certain goal by trapping the ball against the upright.

Later on I found that that was his training ground party-piece, something like Rene Higuita's classic back heel save against England at Wembley.

I couldn't begin to count the games I have watched over the years but they would run into several thousand and in all that time I have seen three world class saves.

I don't count the one that Gordon Banks made from Pele in a World Cup match in Mexico because I wasn't actually there.

But I have been to major internationals, countless UK first division games and a multitude of games at all levels in Australia.

I still have only seen three world class saves.

It isn't my intention to knock Alan Hunter in writing all of this, it is just by way of an editorial story.

I think that maybe Alan, no mean player in his day either, has got caught up in the promotional hype of the game and has slipped into a rut which his perhaps over-use of a worn-out cliché.

After all, any truly world class saves in the Ericsson Cup would have the immediate effect of that 'keeper joining the player-drain to Europe.

I remember the night that Danny Milosevic made his debut for Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium against Sydney United.

The score should have read Cosmos 0 United 8 but for the heroics of Milosevic.

That night Australian soccer unearthed an immensely talented young player, but world class?

Perhaps not.

It would have been easy that night to get carried away because Danny showed that he has the ability to go onto a much higher platform.

Of course, all of this, as is usual, is just personal opinion.

But I have tried not to be offensive in any way to Alan, Fred or anyone else.

After all, Big Al is doing the best job he can, and it isn't an easy one, so he doesn't deserve to be berated.

It is too easy to launch into subjective criticism on any aspect of Australian soccer; all too often I get bombarded with that response.

But ask someone to justify it with facts, now that is different. I wonder what you, the reader, thinks?

IN RESPONSE to David Arnold's letter re: Carlton's future, yes, Olympic Park is a poor choice, but it is close to town and public transport, just like Northern Spirit.

I would prefer Lakeside but it would be like hiring out the Greek National Stadium in Athens!

However, my biggest fear is the current fans wanting to keep the name 'Blues'.

Wake up, this club must sever completely any ties, with the Australian Rules Club.

It must be promoted as a united Melbourne/Victorian club.

Unfortunately it appears the current members and the General Manager (he told me he even wanted to keep the name Carlton) are still treating it as "their" club.

The colours can stay because they are Victoria's colours (a lucky twist). I plead with the new owners, don't give the old guard any ammunition to discredit this club.

I am returning home to Melbourne next season, and I want a "Southern Spirit" to support.

As an ex-South Melbourne supporter, (yes I am of Greek background and I have copped plenty from friends) nothing would please me more than wiping the arrogant "born to rule" smiles off the faces of my ex fellow supporters.

'Sam'

Drumoyne NSW (Whether you have a point or not I can assure you that no-one who has any influence will really listen to you unless you ARE a member.

Why not join Carlton as a member thus increasing your support level? - that way you can be sure that your voice is heard. - Ed).

Misunderstood

YOU have misunderstood my suggestion for a Northern territory team in the NSL.

I didn't mean for one second that it should be an exclusive Aboriginal team - merely that it should be based in the Northern territory to give this ethnic group a team

they could identify with and aspire to play for if they wanted.

I even stated that I did not believe in 'ethnic

Dariusz Roman
Pahran VIC

(Again, Dariusz, I don't doubt your motives but if you can't get Anglo-

amount of NSL centres expanded.

The second division concept, if and when it happens, could quite

Your WRITE

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Carlton: needing new members

ghettoising'.

I agree with you entirely that a team that selects its players on ethnic grounds is perpetrating a form of racism.

Aussies to come to Canberra who the hell will go and play in the Alice or Darwin?

However, I, personally, would like to see the

likely take care of future teams from places like Hobart, Darwin, Rockhampton, Bundaberg etc.

Nice thought, or dream even. - Ed).

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WELCOME to another week of *Wheatley's World*. Yes, the column is still operating, for those interested readers who have contacted the editor's and my desks!

Grand Prix Goes With Real

IN the lead up to the recently run and won Australian Grand Prix the mechanics and drivers like to let of some excess steam in a traditional 'warm up' event.

It takes the form of a soccer duel.

Current NSL champions South Melbourne got into the swing as did race favourite Michael Schumacher.

REAL Melbourne's man on the spot, Gareth Brown, took the initiative of providing a REAL MONDIAL match ball for the contest (the post match feedback was superb).

Brown hopes for similar comments when he chats to regular users of the MONDIAL in Victorian Premier league clubs Sunshine George Cross, Green Gully and Heidelberg.

As we went to press Gully were undefeated sharing the lead with powerhouse Port Melbourne.

Where Do Coaches Go In Their Spare Time?

ACCORDING to VSF Marketing Manager Debbie Ward the answer is as far away as possible.

Current VSF Director of Coaching is an example.

Greener has taken leave of absence, some would say leave of senses, to coach in Papua New Guinea.

A new challenge no doubt.

One hopes he can unearth some new talent along the lines of the effervescent Manis Lamond (pictured in his Canberra City days) who had a mercurial career with the likes of Canberra and Sydney United.

REAL continues to support clubs across the country in all shapes and

WHEATLEY'S WORLD



sizes.

In the 1999 NSW Super League season the reigning champions Blacktown City are proudly sponsored by REAL.

Action over the weekend saw the Demons blast Leichhardt out of the water with a 3-1 first grade victory, repeat the does in the Under 21s with a 3-0 whitewash and remain undefeated on the night with a 1-1 draw in the Under 18s.

Blacktown also had a clean sweep with victories in the Youth League.

ARSENAL'S Internet site has proved a big hit with supporters since it launched 18 months ago and records about 100,000 hits every week.

Subscribers register online or by obtaining a free CD from the Gunners shop or Arsenal World of Sport.

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The agency now looks after three of Australia's top Internet spenders.

Wheatley's World has received an avalanche of calls and e-mails praising the site.

Don't forget that by late March draws and fixtures will be available for teams at every level throughout NSW.

Did You Know?

LEEDS United's John Charles scored five hat tricks in the 1953-54 season and 11 in his career with Leeds during which he scored 157 League and Cup goals.

Harry Kewell netted five times in the 1997-98 season and has already exceeded that mark in mid March of the current campaign.

THE race is on in earnest as eight national associations formally have declared their interest in hosting the 2006 World Cup.

In alphabetical order the interested nations are: Brazil, Egypt, England, Germany, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa.

A BUSY year for FIFA with world championships totalling four in 1999.

The Under 20s are only two weeks away from kicking off in Nigeria.

A lot of fanfare and results are expected from the hosts USA for June's Women's World Cup.

Australia will look on as a spectator only for July's Confederations Cup in Mexico and expectations are high for our Under 17s chances in November's World Championship in New Zealand.

Soccer's Longest Lasting Position is the Goalkeeper.

FOUR of the top ten most capped players occupy the number one position on the timesheet.

Sweden's Thomas Ravelli (143 caps), Andoni Zubizarreta (126), Peter Shilton (125) and Pat Jennings (119) had international careers averaging 14 years at the top.

Dino Zoff (Italy), Peter Schmeichel (Denmark) and Claudio Taffarel (Brazil) have all topped the century marks also.

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Bozza can't stop Villa slide

MARK Bosnich, rated one of the best goalkeepers in the world, made a belated return to the Aston Villa side at Derby last week.

Bosnich, who has indicated he is keen to move to another club when his current contract expires, took over from his deputy, Michael Oakes.

Oakes has played in the last 24 games deputising for the Australian, who has suffered with a shoulder injury.

But following Villa's recent slump in form, Gregory has gone out of his way to stress the importance to have, in his own words, the "right components in his side".

The effervescent Bosnich has been sadly missed over the last few months and, in particular, the last few games when Villa has slipped badly out of the championship race following successive defeats.

But the return of top Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich failed to halt Aston Villa's drastic slide.

Bosnich let through the only goal in Saturday's



clash with Tottenham Hotspur when Tim Sherwood scored in the 89th minute, extending Villa's poor run to seven games without a win.

"We desperately need to pick up some points as quickly as possible as we still have visions of playing in the Champions'

League next season," said Villa manager John Gregory on the eve of Bosnich's recall.

"My priority is to get the team playing as a unit in contrast to the way we have been performing for the last three or four weeks. Injuries have been desperate, and I never

envisaged losing so many players at the same time.

"But it happened, and I have to deal with the situation. I certainly do not hide behind the injuries because there have been a lot more reasons for our present poor form."

Mark's parents watch Cup goals

By Alan Clarke

MARK Viduka's parents were amongst the 50 present at a Melbourne pub early on Tuesday last week to watch their son start his first game for Glasgow Celtic in their 3-0 triumph over Greenock Morton in the Scottish Cup quarter-final.

Viduka scored Celtic's first and third goal - the first of his goals for THE Glasgow team.

His first came in the ninth minute when he received a ball in the 18 yard area, turned quickly by back-heeling the ball, then sending an outside of the right foot shot into the top right corner of the goal.

Viduka's second came seven minutes from the end when he deflected in a shot from Hendrik Larsson.

Viduka posed the Morton defence a problem throughout the match displaying his strength



and ground skills.

It was the Vidukas' first opportunity to watch their son in action - they weren't even sure what shirt number he was allocated - it was 36 - and were happy that he was given such a reception from the fans at the game, and watching in Melbourne.

Socceroo Viduka recently completed a drawn

out transfer from Croatia Zagreb to the Scottish Champions, with some of the transfer money also being paid to Melbourne Knights.

His first league game was the previous week when he came on as a substitute early in the second half against Dundee United with his side trailing 0-1. Celtic then scored twice to win 2-1.

Blades

Blades

Blades

Blades



Life isn't a box of chocolates for Maisano

BELGIUM ... Home to world famous chocolates & diamonds ... the famous "Arambasic Cartilage Fairy", and very promising Aussie talent John Maisano.

Maisano, who has spent time at the VIS and AIS, enjoyed a stint with Italian side Atalanta - then in the Serie-A - for a year, training two-three times a week with the first team and playing with reserves.

These days, Maisano calls Belgian First Division Club KVC Westerlo

home, but the 20-year-old will be away with his Young Socceroo team-mates for the next few weeks, as Australia travels to Nigeria for the World Youth Championship next month.

"I'm really looking forward to being with the boys and representing my country again, because there is no feeling like it in the world," says Maisano, as he prepares to join his team-mates in Holland this week.

"I think we've got a very strong team, but in

the end it comes down to the experience - particularly with the South Americans, most of them who will play in the World Cup play at a high level because there are so many players in South America and they have to work triple hard to make it."

"Unfortunately for Australia, we don't have much international competition and when we see players our age worth three-four million, we automatically think twice - it's really a big

thing for us - but we'll do well if the attitude is right - if we go in thinking we're going to take the game to the likes of Argentina, we will."

Life isn't all a box of chocolates in Belgium however, with the youngster, like so many young Australians currently playing overseas, put under a bit of pressure by his Club when it comes to representative duties.

"In the beginning with the World Cup Qualifiers, the club didn't want me to leave, and when I came back I struggled to get back into the top side because we were on top of the ladder," says Maisano.

"I'm playing quite regularly at the moment though, off the bench, for half a game or more most weeks ... it's hard for both parties because they're looking for a replacement for me while I'm away with the Under-20s, and I want to play for Australia.

"But in the end, as far

as I'm concerned, there is no choice to be made."

Apart from Australia's success, Maisano, who is contracted to Westerlo for another two seasons, has a personal goal he's looking to achieve.

"Basically I don't think many people in Australia know who I am, and I want people in Australia to know who I am," says Maisano.

"I want to perform well, and for people to notice me - I'm hungry for everything - for success, for recognition, everything.

"I think it's time I came out of my shell.

"All I know is football, and I'm living my dream - and if it doesn't work, at least I can say I tried. But I don't think it won't work, because I'm trying my hardest, and it will work."

Judging by that positive attitude and determination, success should be well within his reach.

Courtesy Soccer Australia



Fozzie and Craig stuck at Palace

FINANCIALLY crippled Crystal Palace is having trouble selling highly paid Australians Craig Foster (pictured above) and Craig Moore as it tries to settle its debts.

Palace had agreed to sell Foster to fellow First Division side Barnsley for £500,000.

But the Yorkshire club backed out when it learned Foster was being paid £7,000 (\$A17,930) per week under a deal worked out with former manager Terry Venables, who also coached Foster when Socceroos boss.

The Sun reported a £1.5 million transfer deal had also collapsed between Palace and Premier League heavyweights Leeds over Moore.

He was lured to the club by Venables last year from Scottish big guns Rangers on a wage of £13,000 (\$A33,300) per week.

Palace's fire sale difficulties continue the painful legacy for the club of Venables' five-month stay as manager.

The club has been placed in the hands of administrators after a collapse widely attributed to the contract used to sign Venables, which with various bonuses included, could have cost it up to £4 million (\$A10.25 million).

Palace has debts estimated at between £9 million and £20 million.

AUSSIES OVERSEAS

OLYROO Mark Robertson has undergone surgery for a hernia.

The Burnley midfielder was hoping to play until the end of the season and then go under the surgeon's knife but rigorous physical tests led officials at Turf Moor to take the safer option with Robertson.

Meanwhile, former Johor skipper Darren Stewart has been named captain of his new Singapore Club, Balestier Central.

With the 1999 S-League season commencing on the 31 March, Balestier are well and truly into their pre-season campaign, Stewart on target with a goal in a trial against Singapore's Olympic team, which Balestier won 3-2.

And Aussie goalkeeper Damien Beattie played a full game for Notts County's 2nd XI in their 4-1 loss to Wrexham last week.

Beattie was signed in July of last year by the second division Club.

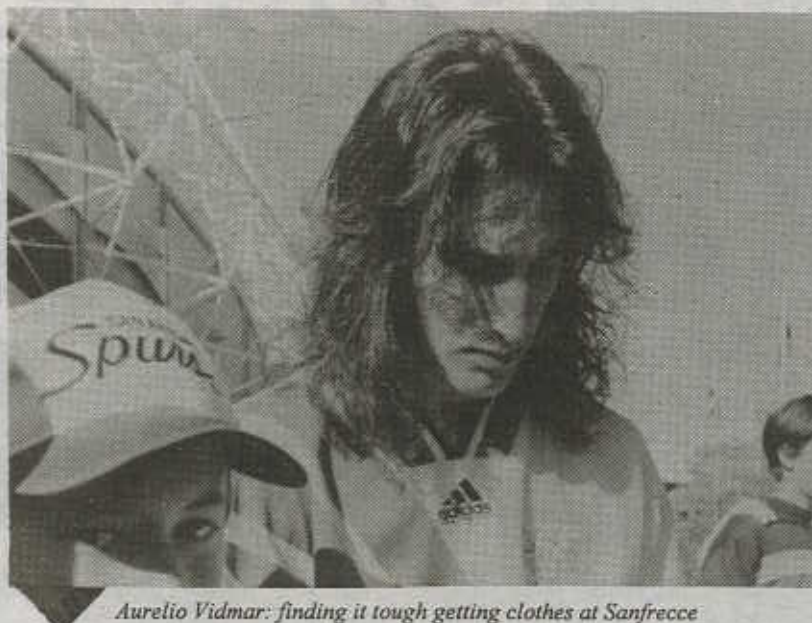
Tall Aussies in the Land of the Rising Sun

THE J-League kicked off for the week before, with five Aussies, three on-field and one off, in action at Sanfrece Hiroshima.

Socceroos Aurelio Vidmar, Tony Popovic and Hayden Foxe these days call Sanfrece home, as does former Australian National Coach Eddie Thomson and his new assistant coach, Mike Hickman.

Sanfrece didn't get off to the best start, losing 2-1 to Cerezo Osaka; Vidmar was replaced in the 70th minute, Foxe played the full game, while Popovic is still recovering from an achilles injury.

"Osaka is a hot and cold team that unfortunately blew hot against us - we were all over them until they scored the first goal, then they went up 2-nil and we scored a consolation in the last minute," says Vidmar.



Aurelio Vidmar: finding it tough getting clothes at Sanfrece

"Naturally we're not happy with the result - we basically copped a smack in the jaw but we've got to get back on top of things and back to the drawing board.

"It's good to be playing

again though, I think everyone hates pre-season."

Not surprisingly, Japan is a bit of a culture shock for the very well-travelled Vidmar.

He joined Sanfrece from Tenerife, in Spain, and admits that having his Australian team-mates close by is handy.

"It really helps that we're all in the same apartment building together and outside of the soccer we spend a lot of time together, at the movies, to dinner, you know."

Vidmar wouldn't expand on the "you know",

but seems to be adapting to his new lifestyle - or is it vice-versa?

"I started taking Japanese lessons for a couple of months but then stopped because it was just too hard," he says.

"Still, it's not too bad because a couple of the boys in the team speak good English - and I'm not referring to the Australians - so we manage, and we've probably corrupted the team anyway!"

"Hiroshima is really a beautiful city with tons of things to do - unfortunately, shopping is re-

stricted to CDs and stuff because none of us can fit into the clothes.

"I'm a bit smaller so there's a few things I can get into.

"But Poppa and Foxey can't buy anything - they have to do all their clothes shopping back home."

Life's tough being tall in the land of the Rising Sun.

Muscy's road back

KEVIN MUSCAT has had eight pins inserted into broken bones in his hand with medicos advising Muscat not too play in the foreseeable future, even with the aid of protective material, as a knock to the wound may undo the repair work.

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60,000 Stadium planned for Brisbane

THE Brisbane Strikers could be playing out of a new-look 60,000-seat Suncorp Stadium early in the new millennium.

Queensland Sports Minister Bob Gibbs revealed last week he'd been knocked over by blueprints for a refurbished Lang Park (Suncorp Stadium).

"What I saw on Monday was mind-boggling," Gibbs told guests at a function in the Centreline Club overlooking Suncorp Stadium.

"Believe me, it would be one of the greatest stadiums in the world for rugby league, rugby union and soccer."

Wayne Heming

South in Tassie

SOUTH Melbourne Soccer Club visited Tasmania last weekend where they played a friendly against a Tasmanian select team and won 5-1.

The scorers were Steve Panopoulos (1), Vaughan Coveny (2), Michael Curcija (2) in front of a 1,500 crowd.

Clinics were also held.

Now Sheffield want to jump onto the Aussie bandwagon

By Scott Coghlan

PERTH Glory general manager Roger Lefort has questioned the wisdom of a push for a second national soccer league side in Perth.

According to an issue of the West Australian newspaper, English Premier League club Sheffield Wednesday wants to take a quarter share in a second NSL licence in Perth in 2001.

The article said a

Wednesday representative recently met with a Perth consortium which is preparing a bid for a second licence.

A new team in Perth can't join the NSL before 2001 as Glory was given five years exclusivity in Perth when it entered the NSL.

Despite the huge success of his own team in its first three seasons, Lefort said he doubted whether Perth was ready to sustain a second team.

"As far as we're concerned, we certainly believe it is far too early for a second team in Perth," he said.

"Over the last few weeks crowds have dipped a little and we believe that is the core support for soccer in Perth at the moment - about 12,000 people.

"I honestly believe it is too early."

Lefort said soccer in Perth was still in its infancy and would be dam-



Let's stop this Pommy rape: Editorial comment

ISN'T it about time that Soccer Australia put a stop to all of this nonsense regarding English clubs investing in the NSL?

I want to see the best Aussie players available playing in our competition although I am sadly resigned to the fact that, at least in the next year or two, our player-drain will continue unabated.

But at least the money comes back into our game, not the coffers of some pumped up Pom in Leeds, Sheffield or London.

Leeds United have made their opinion of Australian soccer plain; our kids are fine but we are crap.

Let's stop beating about the bush, let us call a spade spade - and for God's sake Basil Scarsella, stand up to be counted.

It is time that you told them to take a hike - officially, and publicly.

Bruce Campbell

aged by hastily introducing a second team.

He said the Fremantle Dockers struggle to draw big crowds in an AFL dominated town showed the market place was already crowded.

"2001 isn't far away, it's only a couple of seasons away," he said.

"At this stage, what you have to do is establish one team and really build

that team up to a good regular supporter base.

"Then maybe you sit down later and assess the situation.

"It is in the best interests of the sport here to concentrate on one team at the moment - let's not try to run before we can walk."

The West Australian quoted a Sheffield

Wednesday representative as having said the club would like a minor share in a second Perth team.

"We had a fairly good response and we're looking at putting something further to Soccer Australia in June or July," the Sheffield Wednesday spokesman is quoted as saying.

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inside
SOCCER

Young Socceroos to keep it cool



By Ted Simmons

AUSTRALIAN Youth coach Les Scheinflug is confident a gamble on the weather will be successful in the opening match of the World U-20 Soccer Championships in Nigeria next month.

The Young Socceroos left last Wednesday to play four warm-up games in Holland and another two in Spain before the opening Cup match against Saudi Arabia on April 4.

Scheinflug preferred the cooler conditions to get his players fit and his decision has been supported by a physiotherapy expert at the Australian Institute of Sport.

"The average day temperature in Ibadan will be 33 degrees and the humidity is 95 per cent in the early morning," said Scheinflug.

"The AIS expert, Doug Tumilty, said it would be better to get the team into cooler weather where they can work harder and recover more quickly than being mentally and physically drained in the heat.

"My intention is to arrive in Nigeria one week before the opening match and let the players acclimatise quickly to the changed conditions."

Scheinflug said he had little knowledge about Saudi Arabia except that they drew 0-0 against the Koreans who beat Australia in a two-match series earlier this year.

But his main concern was the fitness of the young Australians and he believes the concentration in the next few weeks will get them to international standard.

"We can't afford to get off to a bad start or drop points and it's crucial to begin with a winning performance," he said.

"I don't want to leave it to the last match against Ireland who are the European champions and won the bronze medal at the last championships in Kuala Lumpur."

Scheinflug still has doubts over a number of positions in the team and said he would not be surprised if there were unexpected selections before the opening game.

John Maisano will be the leading striker with Joel Griffiths a candidate as his partner but there are vacancies for a stopper, midfielder and defence.

Team captain Simon Colosima will be in his usual role of stopper with Eddie Bosnar as sweeper and Anthony Bredan in goals.

However, the remaining positions are open and will depend on the form of the players in the warm-up games and at training.

Sydney defender Mark Byrnes, from the New South Wales Institute of Sport will be the youngest member of the touring party.

World Youth Championships 1999 NIGERIA April 3-24

The 17-year-old Byrnes said it would be his first tour abroad with an Australian team and his selection was totally unexpected.

"My first run for the under-20s came last month when I played against the Koreans and I had also played earlier

this year with the under-17s against Japan," Byrnes said.

"I wasn't expecting to be called up into the Young Socceroos as I had been concentrating on the younger age group but I'm very happy to have been chosen to travel to Nigeria."

HEALTH FEARS

FIFA has approved emergency medical plans, including evacuation, when Nigeria host the World Under 20 Championships next month.

There have been increasing fears voiced by some coaches over the standard of the medical conditions that exist in the West African state.

English Premiership coach David O'Leary of Leeds United announced recently that he would not allow any of his players to take part in the tournament.

THE YOUNG SOCCEROOS

Anthony Bredan (Adelaide City)
Brett Emerton (Sydney Olympic)
Lindsay Wilson (Canberra Cosmos)
Simon Colosimo (Carlton)
Eddie Bosnar (Northern Spirit)
Paul Wearne (Northern Spirit)
Jason Culina (Brondby, Denmark)
Vince Grella (Empoli, Italy)
Marco Bresciano (Carlton)
John Maisano (Westerlo, Belgium)
Mile Sterjovski (Sydney United)
David Terminello (Adelaide City)
Michael Cunico (Northern Spirit)
Daniel Invincible (Marconi)
Christian Care (Marconi)
Joel Griffiths (Sydney United)
Mark Byrnes (NSW Academy)
Michael Turnbull (AIS)
COACH: Les Scheinflug

Standby players:

Adriano Cuzzupe (South Melbourne),
Travis Dodd (Adelaide City),
Ivan Ergic (AIS),
Michael Ferrante (West Ham United, England),
Martin John (Melbourne Knights),
Matt Langdon (Northern Spirit),
Paul Reid (Wollongong),
Nick Sabljak (Adelaide City),
Michael Santalab (Sydney United),
Tynan Scope (Coventry City, England),
Brad Swancott (Newcastle),
Daniel Watkins (Northern Spirit).

Group A
(playing in Lagos)
Nigeria,
Costa Rica,
Germany,
Paraguay.

Group B
(Kaduna)
Ghana,
Croatia, Argentina,
Kazakhstan

Group C
(Ibadan)
Australia,
Saudi Arabia,
Mexico,
Ireland.

Group D
(Enugu)
Uruguay,
Mali,
Korea,
Portugal.

Group E
(Kano and Bauchi)
Cameroon,
Japan,
England,
United States.

Group F
(Port Harcourt and Calabar)
Zambia,
Honduras, Spain,
Brazil.

The Clayton's striker

By Stuart Bell

I'VE SPENT years trying to understand the Australian expression 'Clayton's' and have given up.

But at Ericsson Cup new guys there is a young player who is anything but a Clayton's striker even with his name.

Clayton 'Clacka' Zane has been the butt of a lot of off-field jokes and sniggering this season but in Spirit's last match against Adelaide City he silenced his critics.

Earlier stand-out matches, including his second half part in the total destruction of Carlton, sounded the warning that the boy from Newcastle

was on his way back.

His first goal of the season was scored against Adelaide City in front of another bumper crowd and he must be already pencilled in to coach Graham Arnold's starting line-up for the game against Canberra Cosmos this Friday.

"Clayton had a magnificent game (against Adelaide City)," said coach Arnold.

"There is not a player in the club who deserves the credit which goes with a performance like that more than him.

"He has copped a lot of flack but he has knuckled down, trained hard and worked hard and the rewards are now coming.

"The Carlton match was his

best game.

"He was brilliant then but against Adelaide City he was great in the area that counts for a striker, the 18-yard box.

"He scored a great goal with his head, made all the right runs and if not for their keeper would have had a hat trick.

Northern Spirit now have two home matches in a row which could see them virtually clinch a Top Six spot if they take maximum points.

However, cellar-dwellers Canberra are the re-born team of the competition and the following match is against champions South Melbourne.

Northern Spirit

V
**Canberra
Cosmos**



north sydney oval

**FRIDAY 19 MARCH
KICK OFF 7.30pm**

On the throne of Heaven

Frank Farina, Robbie Slater, Graham Arnold, and Frank Arok are standing before God at the throne of Heaven.

God looks at them, and says: "Before granting you a place at my side, I must first ask you what you believe in."

Addressing Mr Arok first, he asks: "What do you believe in?"

Frank looks God in the eye, and states passionately: "I believe football to be the food of life. Nothing else brings such unbridled joy to so many people, from the slums of Sao Paulo, to the mansions of Chelsea.

"I have devoted my life to bringing such joy to those people who stood on the terraces at the Sydney Football Stadium."

God looks up, and offers Frank the seat to his left.

He then turns to Robbie Slater: "And you, Mr Slater. What do you believe in?"

Robbie stands tall and proud: "I believe courage, honour, and passion are the fundamentals to life, and I've spent my whole playing career providing a living embodiment of these traits."

God, moved by the passion of the speech offers Robbie the seat to his right.

Finally, he turns to Frank Farina: "And you, Mr Farina. What do you believe in?"

I believe," says Frank smoothly, "you are in my seat".

from Fred Leggett

Sydney United, is there a future?

By Paul Millar

A DUSTY over a bar in a British working men's club said it all: "America's got Ronald Reagan, Bob Hope and Johnny Cash, we've got Maggie Thatcher, no hope and no cash".

At Sydney United they've got Dave Mitchell, he allows them to live in hope even though they have no cash.

Mitchell, a front runner for the Socceroo coaching job, is owed plenty by the second placed NSL side and not only in outstanding wages.

His players are still owed money from last season, Mitchell even admits the club has only a limited future in the league, yet United is one of the Ericsson Cup pace setters. Second on the ladder and playing attacking soccer, United should be packing them in - they're not.

Last week it played sister club Melbourne Knights - the Croatian community backed derby drew only 2,118 fans.

League newcomers

Northern Spirit and Perth Glory, who are not ethnically aligned and had no ready made support base are drawing bigger crowds than any side and Mitchell knows the writing is on the wall for the old guard.

"The club has to seriously look at whether it wants to go on," he said.

"If we do not change I do not see any future, all the clubs which rely on an ethnic support base are in the same boat.

"The only way we can have a long-term future in the league is if we re-invent ourselves," he said.

Mitchell said the club had a long and proud history in the league but it was now time for the directors to look to the future.

"They want to expand their support base but it's very hard, we might survive another year but then what?," he said.

The striker-coach is already on the hit-list of several league sides and there's a procession of sides chasing his players for next season.

But at the moment all

Mitchell wants, besides outstanding wages, is to claim second place on the ladder and the double chance in the play-offs.

On Sunday, United travelled to Wollongong and Mitchell had more problems as he has lost his twin strike-force of

Mile Sterjovski and Joel Griffiths to the Young Socceroos for their World Cup campaign in Nigeria.

With Perth a game in hand and three points behind United (before the weekend matches) the Sydneysiders cannot

afford to slip up as the Glory is a hot favourite to belt league strugglers Gippsland at Perth Oval on Sunday.



Sydney United: Dave Mitchell is a revelation but is there any real future for the struggling club

*The Ericsson Cup
champions live at
Bob Jane Stadium*

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**Sunday 21 March
KICK OFF 6:00pm**

**South Melbourne
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*Members, guests and visitors are welcome to join the
players for a drink in the Sportsbar after the match*

Makris on the way out?

By Sam Lienert & Bruce Campbell

PLAYERS at Adelaide Sharks were hoping that a meeting of the Adelaide Sharks board last Sunday would dislodge majority owner Con Makris after five weeks without any match payments.

Makris bought a 51 per cent share in the Sharks at the start of the season but the club has struggled under the weight of a huge debt and in-fighting between Makris and the group which holds the remaining 49 per cent share in the club.

Star striker Derek Poimer, who has lodged his case with the Soccer Australia grievances committee in an attempt to get out of his contract with the Sharks and move interstate, said players could not afford to continue without getting paid.

"The payment situation is getting out of hand, it has been four or five weeks without money and it is not looking good," Poimer said.

Poimer said he had given up hopes of leaving the Sharks this year as his case was unlikely to be heard by Soccer Australia for another fortnight,

with the NSL transfer deadline this Friday.

"I'm not going to make it before the transfer deadline. I'm stuck here for the season at least. At the end of this one or the start of the next one I hope to move," he said.

Fellow player Corey Artone said he had held talks with Adelaide City and Carlton and still held hopes of leaving the Sharks before the deadline.

"The whole club knows that I just want to leave, I can't afford to get paid irregularly, this is my livelihood. I just can't afford to stay another year," Artone said.

"Hopefully I am (able to leave), not to be too hard on the Sharks but I need a stable income, I've talked to Carlton and Adelaide City.

"I'd prefer Carlton just to experience something else, a full-time professional club, but it wouldn't hurt to stay in Adelaide."

Artone said all players had written to the club in an effort to get the matter resolved but it had not had an effect and the players could be forced to take legal action.

"If the matter gets really out of hand, if we don't see our money it's the only action we

can take. We can understand the club's going through a bad time but so are the players," he said.

Australian Soccer Players Association chief executive officer Brendan Schwab said every avenue would be pursued to ensure the players got paid and that they would probably be released from their contracts at the end of the year.

"The players are at the stage where they are making formal demands on the club, there is a debt owing and no-one disputes that, if it involves legal procedures then we would pursue that," Schwab said.

Up to six players have asked for their contracts to be terminated because of breaches.

And next Sunday is another crucial day in the life of the troubled club when an Extraordinary General Meeting will be held.

With dumped coach Manfred Schaefer still in Adelaide fulfilling his contractual obligations there is also the likelihood that he will be re-instated by the so-called '49-ers' should Makris be ousted.

**INSIDE SOCCER Australia's weekly soccer Bible
OUT EVERY TUESDAY - coast to coast**

No Magic Formula for Sermanni

By Bruce Campbell

YOU can't confuse being quietly spoken and just plain dumb.

The softly voiced coach of the Canberra Cosmos is no do-do, you can be sure of that.

Instead, in Tommy Sermanni you get a man who has immense respect from his peers at all levels in the game.

That is why when Eddie Thomson was looking for a trusty right hand man to move to Japan he chose the former Marconi and Canberra City midfielder.

Yet at the end of that two year contract Sermanni has taken up the hardest job in the league.

A lot of football fans may never have heard of his name before so perhaps that decision wasn't quite the thunderbolt that it could have been.

Similarly those who do know the man well enough know of his passion for Canberra.

But is coaching the so-called easy-beats of the league a career move – or is it forestalling the inevitable, Canberra Cosmos's slide into obscurity and bankruptcy – whichever happens first.

"I wouldn't have taken the job if I didn't believe that there was a future at the Cosmos," he says.

Sermanni has just seen his team knock Carlton off with a fine 2-0 home win and this would be the perfect opportunity to crow about that.

Instead, he chose to talk about the present and the future – of the Cosmos.

"I'm not the sort of person who goes to bed at night thinking about the next stage of my career," he says.

"I've been lucky, I've always been in employment in soccer and I'm content at that.

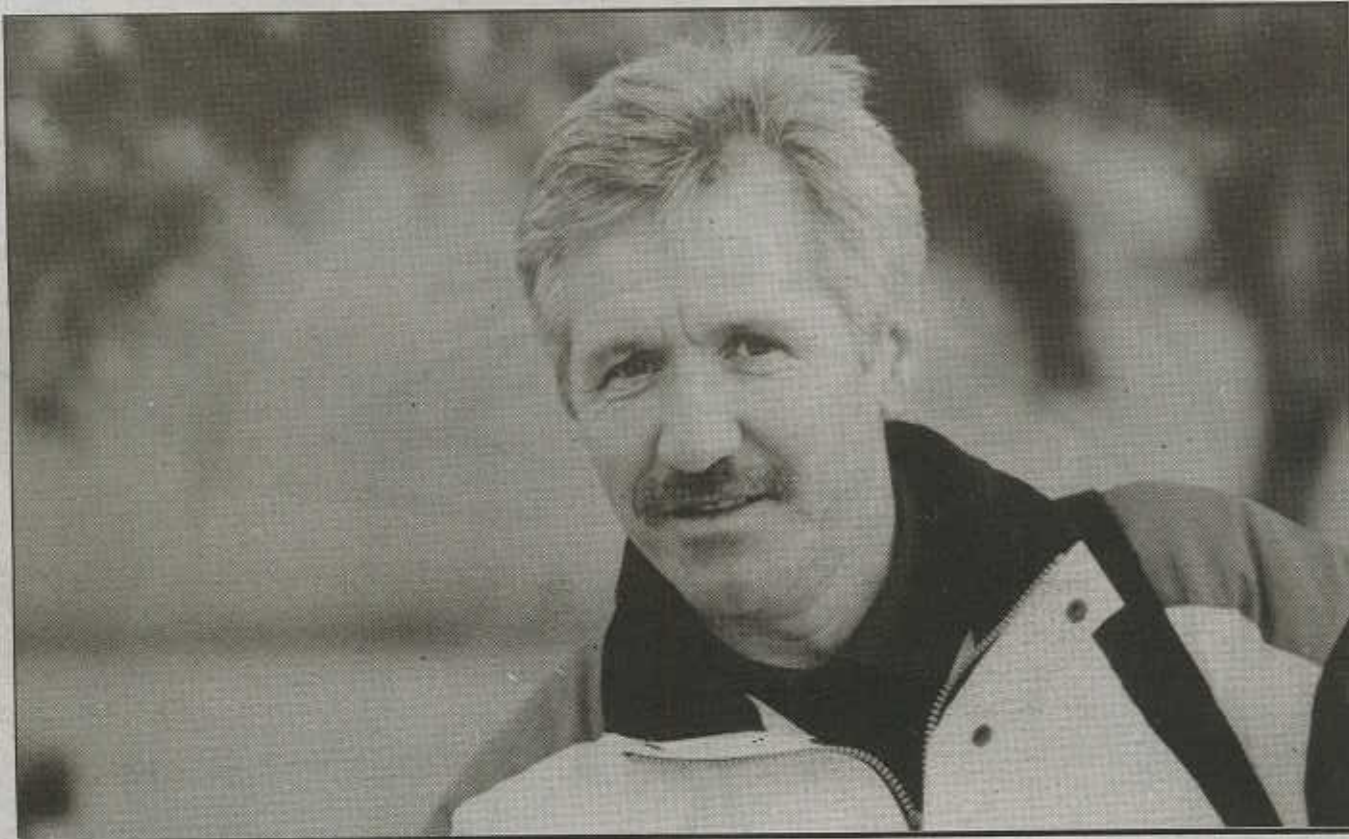
"I have got ambitions but it isn't a subject which dwells with me constantly, let's put it that way."

Sermanni came incredibly close to being a NSL coach in 1991 when his brilliant Canberra Metros side was somehow overlooked for promotion from the NSW State League.

Later he got a fleeting chance when he stepped in at the tail end of yet another disastrous Sydney Olympic season to guide them into the playoffs.

Wisely, he decided that maybe the time wasn't right for an extended career with the club so often called soccer's bridesmaid.

Instead, he ended up as



coach of the Matildas, installing a new programme of development with them that laid the ground work for current coach Greg Brown's success.

In truth, the women's game deserves the singular lack of attention it gets through some fairly inept administration yet Sermanni still managed to put them on the map.

Now he's back in Australia and has one of the

players at this club.

"It was just a matter of putting a few things right."

OK, but the guy before him was no mug, so what does Sermanni have that Rale Rasic doesn't?

And before him was Branko Culina, one of the best in the business, and then before that Mike Lyons.

Yet, in the wash of it all, they all failed.

Sermanni, however,

ways has to be the players.

"We have got some reasonable players at this club.

"I've been lucky in that my appointment was well received in Canberra.

"I've had a lot of help from a lot of different people.

"But realistically the players have turned things around.

"Sometimes a new coach can be lucky,

quality midfield player.

"Defensively we aren't too bad at all but I suppose it depends on just who we lose at the end of this season."

At the moment the Cosmos are fighting tooth and nail to hang on to their two young starlets Lindsay Wilson and Peter Buljan.

Sermanni would like to convince both players that their immediate careers are best served at the Cosmos although he accepts their ambition of playing professionally overseas.

His main task is to convince them that the Cosmos would be their best springboard to Europe.

Buljan, in particular, has been a target for other NSL clubs and the Cosmos would sorely

miss his firepower.

"Other clubs have the resources to sign a Bingley, a Hooker or a Poric mid-season," he says, "and we don't – that is the problem.

"I think Canberra can become competitive in the league but you can't jump from bottom to top in a season, that just can't be done.

"We already have good players at this club so it is a case of trying to strengthen the current squad for next season.

"I feel that Vilson Knezevic turned the corner in the game against Adelaide Sharks where he was first class.

"From then his confidence has just grown."

Knezevic is maybe a case in point, a player who has responded well

to the Sermanni Touch.

Signed from Melbourne Knights in a pre-season fanfare of trumpets he suffered the ultimate ignominy for a 'keeper of being substituted during a game – twice.

That Knezevic has come back so well is a huge bonus for the club.

Another bonus has been the return of Gordon Hunter.

The former Hibernian captain was dumped by former coach Rasic in the off-season, despite having been the fulcrum behind a mid-term turnaround last season.

It is maybe no coincidence that Sermanni arrived back in Canberra at the same time that Hunter made a return to Australia.

Since settling back into a role at the back of the defence the red haired Scotsman has been like the Rock of Gibraltar.

But Sermanni isn't fooled, he says that there is no Magic Formula and he is prepared to work at the hard stuff – including installing the club's first ever youth programme.

That is welcome news for the soccer experts in the town who have been shouting about its absence for the last four years.

Sermanni might insist that he has no magic touch, but the results speak for themselves.

If Canberra can hold onto their man for the next couple of seasons, and with the likelihood that Gordon Hunter will also join the coaching staff in a joint playing role, then there might just be a future for the Cosmos in the NSL – and even a long-term one at



Lindsay Wilson: already targeted by other NSL clubs

best current records of any NSL coach – even with the so-called easy-beats.

"Not quite," he laughs, "we've taken 11 points from my ten games.

"The team is doing well but there is a lot to be done yet.

"To be honest, when I saw them I never believed that they were as bad as a no-points side."

"There are some good

would see his side occupy a Top Six spot if it was results based on the last ten games only.

"There is no magic formula," Sermanni insists.

"The players have turned things around.

"I am impressed with them, they are the ones who have changed things here.

"Maybe being new was a boost for them but at the end of the day it al-

sometimes unlucky, sometimes you are just the right person at the right time – I just don't have the answer.

"I don't think there is one."

The obvious thought is that if Sermanni can do so well with a squad he didn't sign then what can he do with a fresh start.

"We're short of a left sided player," he admits.

"We're also short of a

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Carlton's name change blues

By David Arnold

THE decision by Carlton officials to retain their name has caught most fans and many neutral supporters by surprise.

Having severed ties with the AFL and Social Club, it was expected the club would re-badge - at the behest of part owner Peter Jess - and hopefully be more marketable to the public.

Tony D'Alfonso reports deep-seated animosity towards Carlton stretches way back to the 1950's, when Princess Park (now Optus Oval) was to be the main venue for the 1956 Olympiad.

Local residents demanded the games be held at the MCG, and a political backlash was growing against Menzies, a Carlton AFL member.

The rest, as they say, is

history.

The perceived arrogance of the AFL club and its elitist approach has long been a major turn-off to AFL clubs and supporters.

The recent comments by Carlton President John Elliot on Koories is a perfect example just why Carlton - and their name - is so disliked.

The Carlton Soccer Club decided to retain their name after extensive consultation and research with Sponsors and Members.

"All our research indicates changing the name will not make a difference to the public," said GM Lou Sticca.

"The name Carlton has strong brand equity across Australia and we are confident that an extensive marketing push we plan for next season

will bring in the fans and also more sponsorships.

"Market Research indicates the retention of the Carlton name will allow us to bring in more sponsors, and, in fact, would be more successful than any other name."

But the decision to keep the name has surprised many long-time fans, as well as the neutrals.

The editor of Carlton Fanzine (unofficial) *My Blue Heaven*, points out the numerous problems in getting AFL supporters of any allegiance to watch a Carlton Soccer game.

"Look at the way the Carlton AFL supporters have stayed away in their thousands and the sheer problems the club has faced in getting higher crowds," she says.

Sam Prenesti of the True Blues Supporters Club follows the club line: "We're glad that the decision has been made so we can now concentrate on how to make the club grow."

"The club will have to pay the fees applicable to Soccer Australia regard-

less of any change to the club's name."

"The decision to retain the name has no relevance to the payment due SA for the club's change of ownership," Sticca confirmed. It has been reported that Nike Australia were cool on the idea of Carlton Soccer Club changing their name. Megan Ryan of Nike was unavailable for comment.

It has been a difficult time recently for Carlton with on and off-field distractions resulting in the club winning one of seven games and slide out of the Top Six.

Speaking after the Canberra defeat, coach Eddie Krncevic was despondent and claimed the club was rebuilding for next season, a statement which seems contradictory to Sticca's avowed aim of making the finals.

"No, we are still in with a chance and we are aiming for a Top Six finish," Sticca replied.

Last season Carlton roared back to make the Six when they played at Olympic Park.

Can they do it twice?

SOCCKER: A LEGAL EAGLE'S PERSPECTIVE

The Men In Suits Solicitors & Players Agents

By Greg Keenan

(Solicitor, McCabes Lawyers, Sydney; Managing Director, Athlete Management International, Sydney)

THE MEN in suits - solicitors and players' agents - are having an increasingly bigger role in the multi-billion dollar global industry that we know as professional soccer.

This article will look at the restrictions placed on solicitors and players' agents by Soccer Australia and FIFA as the men in suits go about their business of representing the men in shorts.

The regulation of players' agents is an important issue given the vast amounts of money that are on offer on the world stage.

The FIFA regulations governing players' agents essentially protect and safeguard the interests of players and clubs in their negotiations with other players or clubs.

These regulations have been adopted by Soccer Australia.

FIFA regulations stipulate that a players' agent must be in possession of a licence issued by FIFA.

In order to obtain a licence, a players' agent must show that he has the relevant knowledge and capabilities to advise a player or club.

However, the biggest hurdle to becoming a licensed agent is the requirement that the applicant must lodge a bank guarantee with a Swiss bank in favour of FIFA in the amount

of 200,000 Swiss Francs.

This is approximately equivalent to \$A217,000.00 and is required to cover possible claims for damages made by players or clubs arising from contravention of FIFA regulations by a licensed players' agent.

FIFA prohibits players and clubs employing the services of a non-licensed agent.

The only exceptions to this are if the agent of a club or player is a registered solicitor in the country where he lives or if a players' agent is a close relative of the player.

One of the main reasons for excluding solicitors from the FIFA licensing requirements is that the legal profession has its own professional indemnity insurance requirements and strict ethical codes for its members to abide by.

This framework protects players and clubs.

FIFA, whose regulations are adopted by Soccer Australia, is merely trying to protect players and clubs through the agent-licensing system.

George Pashalis, spokesman for Soccer Australia, commented on the issue: "From Soccer Australia's point of view, if a person is not a FIFA licensed agent or a practising solicitor, we've advised all clubs not to deal with them."

"For the club's, or that matter a player's, own protection they should ensure that they are dealing with someone who satisfies the FIFA regulations."

It seems to be an increasing practice for a person who wants to be a player agent to align himself with a

solicitor to effectively rubber-stamp a player's contract.

This type of arrangement would seem to contravene FIFA regulations which prevent both players and clubs from dealing with non-licensed agents.

The bottom line - make sure your man in a suit is a FIFA licensed agent or a practising solicitor.

This article is prepared exclusively for the general information of the readership of Inside Soccer.

While it directs attention to and comments on aspects of law, it is not intended to provide legal advice in the area.

Professional advice should be sought from your lawyer before acting on any of the information conveyed in this article.

Knights want to privatise

By Bert van Bedaf

BOUYED by more than a million dollars from the transfer of Mark Viduka from Zagreb Croatia to Celtic Glasgow, the Melbourne Knights plan to become a privatised club by next Ericsson Cup season.

Sources close to the club told *Inside Soccer* that at a Labour Day meeting, last Monday week, the club board decided to appoint a sub-committee charged to look into privatisation and report back within four weeks.

Sources also said English Premier League clubs Manchester United and Arsenal had approached the Melbourne Knights "with a view of establishing a relationship", possibly becoming shareholders in the Melbourne soccer club similar to Crystal Palace holding an interest in Sydney's Northern Spirit.

The Knights would be

following a growing trend.

About half of the national league clubs are already privatised, including Perth Glory, Sydney Olympic, Adelaide Sharks, Adelaide City, Newcastle, Carlton and the Spirit.

The Croatian Social Club would remain a controlling shareholder in the Knights, who would be "100 per cent privatised".

Funds would be used to further develop the Knights stadium and reignite the 1994 and 1995 national champions into a major playing force again.

The club will be satisfied to finished three or four spots away from the bottom and build for next season with at least two experienced overseas players strengthening a young squad.

Knights president Steve Mandekic said the club had received \$1.28million as its share of the \$8

million transfer of former Knights striker Viduka from Zagreb to Scottish champion Celtic Glasgow.

Mandekic said the funds were in the club's solicitors' trust and would go towards paying a \$700,000 debt.

Knights general manager Damien Phillips said the club had access to the money and had used some of it to service its overdraft.

He believed the bulk of the money should be used to establish a financially secure future.

"There will be penalty charges if we pay the debt in full, rather than paying it off."

"We're seeking independent financial advice how to best use the money and provide some revenue streams for the future," Phillips said.

Knight's vice-president Ivan Skunca who revealed details regarding the club's privatisation in the Croatian language

press, said: "Apart from Perth and Marconi, I can't think of any other club in the competition that owns everything and doesn't owe anyone."

"A windfall like we received does not happen every day."

"That's a fact."

"Now it's up to us to create our own future."

"We've got to be smart and perceptive and think long-term not short-term."

"We have to modernise and move with the times in the way we're going to run ourselves."

"We need to look beyond soccer to raise revenue and use it to support soccer."

"We must open up our vision."

"We are proud of our Croatian heritage, but we need to open up to all communities."

"The club now has a unique opportunity to go ahead."

"It is in our hands. We must grasp that window of opportunity," he said.



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Bugsy's View

with Marconi skipper Brad Maloney



OUR defeat at home by Newcastle Breakers last Saturday, while disappointing, certainly wasn't the end of the world.

Sure, we are all very disappointed that we didn't win and snare the three points that would have seen us back in the top six, but we are professional enough to know that in some games, no matter how much you try, the ball just doesn't bounce for you.

The season is a long way from over, and when the play offs start, I'm confident that Marconi will be figuring in them.

There will always be games you should have done better in, and the game against the Breakers will go down in history as one of those encounters.

But that is taking absolutely nothing away from the Newcastle side, who scored a great goal early in the game, and thoroughly deserved their victory, defending brilliantly and frustrating us at every turn as the game progressed.

One man who stood out in the Breakers side was our ex goalkeeper, big Bobby Catlin, still a very popular man at Marconi.

On more than one occa-



Bobby Catlin: a great keeper

sion he had us all looking skywards wondering just exactly what we had to do to get the ball past him.

We always knew about Bobby's ability, and I guess like a lot of players, he would have been happy to prove a point on his return to a club he was previously attached to, and to raise his game accordingly.

One save in particular, from a Kris Trajanovski diving header in the second half had us shaking our heads in disbelief.

If ever a save deserved to be described as 'world class' this was it, but Bobby, typical of the modest guy he is, said after the game that he couldn't remember much about it.

There is little doubt that Bobby is one of the best goalkeepers doing the rounds in the Ericsson Cup this season, and it's just a pity that he decided to use the game against Marconi to reinforce that opinion.

Prior to the game against the Breakers it

was reported in the media that I had agreed to extend my contract with Marconi until the year 2003.

I can honestly say that I am thoroughly enjoying my football with the Stallions and that the club have been very, very good to me.

Marconi are one of the most professionally run clubs in the country, and I had no hesitation putting my signature to the deal.

There is an excellent team spirit within the club that makes coming to training and playing not so much of a job, but more of a pleasure, and that was one of the reasons I decided to extend my contract.

At Marconi the players know that we are on the verge of excellence, and given the backing of the licensed club, special times are just around the corner.

It hasn't been easy this season, given our horrific injury toll, but coach Frank Farina has led by example and kept a cool head in difficult circumstances.

It is now up to the players to repay that loyalty in our remaining six games.

Remo slams rumour mill

NORTHERN SPIRIT has denied that it is under any financial threat.

In recent weeks English papers have been full of stories concerning Crystal Palace's financial strife.

Spirit major shareholder Mark Goldberg is also chairman of Palace, fuelling rumours that Spirit was also in front of the money gun.

But Spirit chairman Remo Nogarotto has balsted the rumour mill, saying that Goldberg had paid the club \$1.5million.

"He's (Goldberg) paid all of his money into Northern Spirit up front - we're not owed any money," the high profile Liberal Party member said.

"He parked \$1.5million in working capital in the club at the start and we don't believe there'll be any problems with him" continuing his financial commitment to the club.

"I spoke to him and he's confident that over the next four to six weeks,

some of Palace's problems will be resolved and there'll be no effect on his involvement with Northern Spirit."

Spirit has been a soar-away success on the park but a spiralling wage bill has seen questions being asked about their financial viability.

The latest spark came with the full revelation of Crystal Palace's sown downturn.

But Nogarotto has scotched the theories.

Their English investor will eventually take up a full \$3million stakeholding the club which has set Sydney soccer alight in its first year.

"Mark Goldberg has been a very important financial contributor to Northern Spirit this season," added the chairman.

"He's taken a very active interest in the club - I talk to him two or three times a week."

Win a double pass

Inside Soccer, in conjunction with NORTHERN SPIRIT, is giving away THREE double passes to the blockbuster challenge v South Melbourne.

If you want to go into the draw simply answer the following three questions and send your entry to the club. Entries close next Monday.

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2. Who is the Northern Spirit captain?
3. When did Northern Spirit enter the Ericsson Cup?

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Dave Barrett: time has proven him right

By Stuart Jones

DAVE BARRETT can look back upon one of the most courageous decisions of his life with some comfort now.

It was at that time that he chose to leave the club for which he had given ten years of his life.

He had worn the Olympic shirt with pride but finally felt that the club's administration of the time were giving him no choice.

"I felt they had reneged on an original offer and that gave me no option but to leave," he said.

"It was never going to be easy but it was time to go."

Time has proven him correct.

He left for Sydney United, for new team mates, a new environment and new friends.

This does not mean he has forgotten the good times.

"I have some great memories from Sydney Olympic, like winning the Grand Final in 1990," adds the Sydney schoolteacher.

"In fact by the time I was 19 I had played two Grand Finals and loved it."

"Robbie Hooker, Abbas Saad and Alistair Edwards were great to play with, and great to watch even from on the pitch."

"Peter Raskopolous was a fantastic player as was Chris Kalantzis."

"Andy Bernal had to be one of the toughest players around."

Representative duties for DB included the Under 17 World Cup in China: "I had a great time over there playing against the likes of Hugo Maradona (Diego's brother) and our side defeated the likes of Argentina and West Germany."

Dave Barrett actually started his career at Sydney City before moving to Olympic as a youngster.

His first season at Sydney United was interrupted with injury with his debut put on hold due to a hand injury and then a knee problem keeping him out further.

However, Barrett takes no prisoners and certainly does not expect pity.

Like always he fought back and joined a team that would make it all the way to the play off.

This season has been another terrific year for the Pumas and Dave Barrett.

"This season has been pretty good for me," he says.

"I have played close to one of my best seasons ever."

"What is more I have proven to myself and others that I can be versatile, having played stopper as well."

"You never know, further into the future I might end up there."

"At the moment I am enjoying playing out wide though, I am really involved with the play."

"The biggest thing is I still as fit as ever."

"The most important thing is I am still enjoying my football."

"I am still in love with the game."

"I have never seen a better team spirit, the likes of Danny Townsend may be in the starting line-up one week and on the bench the next but they all stay so contented."

"There are no egos and the team is a fantastic unit, and great to be around."

"We have all felt good about Mile (Sterjovski) and Joel (Griffiths) making the Under 20s team."

"If United had not been playing well they would not have made it perhaps."



Dave Barrett: a decade at Sydney Olympic but now part of United's title challenge

"I just hope they play together for the national team because they help each other to be the players they are."

"Jacob (Burns) is also involved in the Olyroos and he is great to."

"In fact I am only disappointed that Michael Santalab did not make the team."

"Michael reminds me a lot of myself at his age."

"He never complains, he just gets stuck in."

"He comes from a great family, has a great girlfriend, and is really a nice person off the park whilst on it he remains competitive and strong."

For DB the last couple of years have been a transition off the park as well.

He has settled into married life with Nerida and has become head teacher of Maths at Westfields Sports High.

"It has been brilliant, I really feel I have the balance right," he says of his life.

"I am doing great at home and in my teaching."

"In fact I just hope we do not get all forced into full-time playing."

"It was always my dream but now I am where I am I can not see any added value for me."

And as for the Westfields Sports High debate?

"I am not involved in the soccer programme but I can not see how the school is to blame anywhere," he

says.

"When I hear all the controversy I ask myself why aren't the NSL clubs knocking at the door of the school



asking for the kids themselves?

"That still amazes me."

On the park he continues to learn.

"Dave Mitchell is the best coach I have ever had," says Barrett.

"He is a people person and manages each individual player really well."

"That is the hardest thing to do."

"As a tactician he still teaches us all stuff."

"For example I have never seen a coach work so hard on set plays."

"It has really counted in games this year."

"He is also loyal to the players who have done so much for him in the past."

So as to his aims for the rest of the year he has set them quite clear.

"I want to win another championship."

"Since those two early on I have not had the taste of that again and here I was at 19 thinking this was what it was all about."

"It is going to be tough but we need to make the top two, I really think only those two teams can win the championship."

"The finals are biased towards those two teams and that is the way it should be."

"I think Sydney United deserves that, the players who have overcome all sorts of off-the-field dramas, the coach, Mitch, and his staff who have all worked ever so hard, and those associated with the club."

"My other hope is that we can keep the team together at the end of the season but that will be a wait and see, I guess."

It is a long way from his early days at United where he hoped he could play well, hold down a spot and help out the younger kids.

Now Dave Barrett dreams of championship medals and holding a winning team together.

As always though, he has kept his problems off the field quiet.

He must be quite a pleasure to have as a manager.

Every time he gets knocked low he stands up without complaint and fights back.

Many see Barrett as a veteran but he has just turned 30.

It may be so many have seen him around for so long and he is still well loved at Sydney Olympic.

One of the great ironies of the game is that he may meet up with his old side in this year's finals.

Whatever, he will remain modest as ever and yet be one of the foundations of a successful Sydney United.

PRO file

Born: Balmain 21/2/69

Family: Married

Former Clubs: Sydney City, Sydney Olympic, and Sydney United.

Representative Honours: NSW captain 1995.

Joeys 1985 U17 World Cup in China

Occupation: Head Teacher Maths Most Difficult opponent:

Robbie Slater

Favourite overseas club: Liverpool

Favourite overseas player: John Barnes

Favourite Australian player: Paul Trimboli

PORT KEMBLA



PROFILE OF AN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER CLUB
Supported by the FRATERNITY CLUB

Port to start as hot Illawarra favourites

PORT KEMBLA enter the 1998 Illawarra Premier League season as raging hot favourites to take out another championship.

Last year the zebras won the league and Cup double only to falter at the final step to be denied the elusive Illawarra Treble.

Their Grand Final loss was case of Port blowing it, with, in fairness, White Eagles really rising to the occasion.

That White Eagles thought that their Grand Final had been played the week before is a testament to the strength of the Port Kembla club.

This year they have had a look at their set-up with a view to making sure that there will be no slip-ups.

"We look very strong,"

says team manager Steve Maccabei.

"So far we haven't been really tested in our warm up games.

"We even played ACT side Monaro with a mixture of youth teamers and a few fringe first team players and beat them easily.

"It is only early days yet but things are looking good.

"I would say that we will be stronger on the park than we were last year."

And head coach Adrian Alston has total revamped the team set-up at Port to make first team places even more competitive.

He had scrapped the reserve team squad and instead brought both under his overall control.

That means that both

teams will train together and both be playing the same system.

Ultimately that will give him a very strong squad, particularly with experienced players like Aaron O'Brien, Giacomo Morlando, Paul Robaard and Mineo Bonetig back in contention this season.

A temporary set-back is the absence of Kane Maccabei and Michael Clare, both on duty in the National Youth League with Wollongong Wolves but they will be better players for their experience.

The two major losses from last season are that of Joe Campagna (Canberra State League) and Paul Roberts (Canberra Cosmo) although the third ACT player from last term, keeper Ben Harris, has

re-signed.

The club still has hopes of adding Roberts to their roster once the NSL season is over.

"I'm thinking about it," the blond haired midfielder told *Inside Soccer*.

"The club is pretty keen for me to come back and I had a great time in Wollongong last season.

"It is tempting because I really like the club so we'll see what happens over the next few weeks."

Roberts was one of the stars of the Illawarra Premier league last season and looked a shoe-in to be signed by Wollongong Wolves.

However, a disagreement over terms put paid to that and the former Australian Indoor international was snapped up by the Cosmos instead.

Bruce Campbell



Paul Roberts: a likely addition to the Port Kembla roster

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1999; THE YEAR OF THE ZEBRAS

IF the pre-season is any guide then 1999 might just be the Year of the zebras - whether or not it is on the Chinese calendar.

Last Sunday the Zebras breezed through their semi final of the Corrimal Leagues Club Cup against Shellharbour City, winning 3-1.

Crowd favourite Frank Barila grabbed a brace while a Paul Robaard penalty made the scoreline impressive.

Adrian Alston's team had already sped to a 2-0 half time lead and looked

a class above.

Similar form in the Australia Bricks Cup must make Port a raging hot favourite for this year's Illawarra Premier League due to start in just a few weeks.

A Cup Final appearance against Kemblawarra this Sunday might be their hardest game to date - particularly coming on the back of the club's season launch on Friday.

"The lads are all professionals," says coach Adrian Alston.

"They know what is expected of them and will be moderate on Friday night.

"Come Sunday we have a job to do.

"It doesn't matter whether it is a pre-season Cup or the Ericsson Cup - this is a trophy and we want to win everything at this club.

"That is the way we are here, maybe that is why we have been so successful."

Last year's President Vince Raschilla has made way this year for Emilio Salucci (pictured) to guide the side through its next stage of development.

Already the fans are talking about a step up to the NSW Super League and with the powerful backing of some of the South Coast's leading business houses maybe that won't be too far away.

Port Kembla is a major force in Illawarra soccer but maybe the time has come to flex bigger muscles.

"It is always a possibility," says Salucci.

"We have talked about it and there are even



those involved with the club who think we should have aspirations for the National league."

1999, it could well be the Year of the Zebras.

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*Wishing Port Kembla and all Illawarra Premier League clubs a
successful 1999 season*

Hungry for success

PORT KEMBLA is one of a new breed of soccer clubs in Illawarra; backed by a string of businesses and hungry for success.

They are maybe the typical example of a club at the cross-roads, a path which might provide bigger challenges for the Illawarra Soccer Association.

"There is a bit of rift between some of the clubs in the ISA," an insider told *Inside Soccer*.

"Port and a few clubs like White Eagles and Kemblawarra are keen to forge ahead.

"We are developing our ground at Primbee and there are plans to build a club house on the ground.

"Last year we staged a very successful Bampton Cup final so the eagerness of the committee members is obvious.

"But the rest of the league has to keep pace with the ambitious clubs or the rift will widen.

"Some believe that the rules of the competition are actually holding everybody back."



It is no secret that Port Kembla want to see the restrictions on only one NSL player lifted.

Currently Illawarra clubs can only register four outside players, one of whom may be a NSL

player.

That, some people believe, is a way of keeping a 'level playing field'.

That may keep some happy but as they say in politics you can't keep all of the people happy all of

the time.

There has been muffled talk for a couple of seasons about the need to strengthen the competition and with the advent of new clubs like Shellharbour City then per-

haps the time is not too far away when the Illawarra Premier league will make the changes which will allow Port Kembla to further increase its playing strength.

Bruce Campell



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Sir Bobby says England lead race

English soccer great Sir Bobby Charlton called on Europe to back his country's bid to host the World Cup finals in 2006 or risk losing the chance of staging the event for many years to come.

Charlton, invited to address the European parliament today, said: "More and more countries want to stage the World Cup and if Europe does not get the 2006 finals, as Europeans, we can expect even tougher competition in 2010 and 2014.

"That is why it is crucial for Europe to secure the tournament in 2006 and to do that Europe must get behind the strongest bid.

"That should be the bid which can draw support from all around the world.

"I believe, without question, that bid is England's," Charlton is a senior bid official.

Germany is the other European country bidding for the finals.

There is exactly one year left before executive committee of soccer's

world body FIFA decides the host venue for the 2006 finals. Charlton told MEPs that even Franz Beckenbauer, leader of the German bid, believes England is ahead in the race.

"As you all know, my old friend and rival on the football field, Franz Beckenbauer, is leading Germany's bid," he said.

"In many of the close encounters between our two countries over the years it has sometimes been difficult to keep the score.

"I think perhaps Franz might have overlooked the fact Germany last staged the World Cup eight years after England.

"If it's Europe's turn in 2006, then it must be England's turn."

A crucial aspect of England's bid is a re-built Wembley Stadium, which would host the final in 2006 as it did in 1966.

And South Africa has warned England and Germany against trying to "buy out" its bid for the 2006 World Cup soccer tournament.

"We are not for sale," bid chief Danny Jordaan

said at the start of a media tour to promote the bid.

German Interior Minister Otto Schily said last Sunday his country would provide assistance to South Africa if it pulled out and decided to bid for the following finals instead.

Jordaan said England had also tried to buy out South Africa and failed.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter has said he thinks Africa should host the finals and Franz Beckenbauer, who heads Germany's bid, said last month South Africa was leading the race.

Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco and Nigeria are also bidding.

Jordaan said Ghana would probably pull out as it was proposing a joint bid with eight African countries.

Since World Cup 2002 will be the first joint finals, hosted by Japan and South Korea, FIFA would rather see how those go before backing another double ticket, Jordaan said.

FIFA, soccer's governing body, will decide in

March 2000 which country is to host the 2006 World Cup.

South Africa's bid, if successful, is forecast to pump around 35 billion rand into the economy, according to bid accountant Grant Thornton Kessel Feinstein.

It would generate nearly 150,000 jobs, lowering unemployment by two percentage points in a country where more than a third of people are jobless.

"We have a bid which is real, achievable and realistic," Jordaan said.

In the history of the World Cup, Europe has hosted nine finals, South America four and North and Central America three.

The biggest drawback for South Africa is crime.

Hijacking, mugging, rape and murder rates are some of the world's worst, deterring everything from fixed foreign investment to tourism.

But the political head of Gauteng, the province encompassing Johannesburg and Pretoria, said the province was building a high-powered anti-hijacking unit and developing special police divisions.



Soper ready to sweep for Jancev

ILLAWARRA Lions will start the new season as favourites to win the NSW First Division.

With massive restructuring plans on the board the club will move into its own ground in south Wollongong sometime this season.

But while there is major movement off the park the most exciting development could well be on the field.

In the last few seasons the side has been in the doldrums but the recruitment of coach Lube Jancev is set to change that.

"Lube has signed with us from Macedonia," said spokesman Krume Spi-



Coach Lube Jancev

rovski.

"But he has a wealth of experience in Australian

soccer with Bankstown City where he won a whole stack of trophies.

"As our new Director of Coaching he has the chance to revolutionise soccer in Illawarra and bring success to this club."

The Lions are looking ahead to this season as an opportunity to stake a claim for the Super league.

And with the news that the NSWFS has shelved plans to go summer until the following year that will give Illawarra the chance they need to consolidate their position.

The Super League had planned to adopt a summer format this year with the league set to finish in August.

But at a recent clubs meeting that plan was overturned and now it looks

likely that the go-ahead will not be given for summer soccer until 2000.

At this stage it looks likely that the Super league will start again in January next season and that a separate competition will be formed for the following summer.

ILLAWARRA Lions plan to be part of that set-up.

And an ace in

Jancev's sleeve is the signing of veteran Marshall Soper.

The pair linked previously at Bankstown where Soper's career was kicked started again.

After a brilliant sea-

son he was signed by Marconi for another crack at the NSL.

One of the deadliest strikers in Australian soccer in his hey day the wayward star will play a sweeper's role for Jancev.

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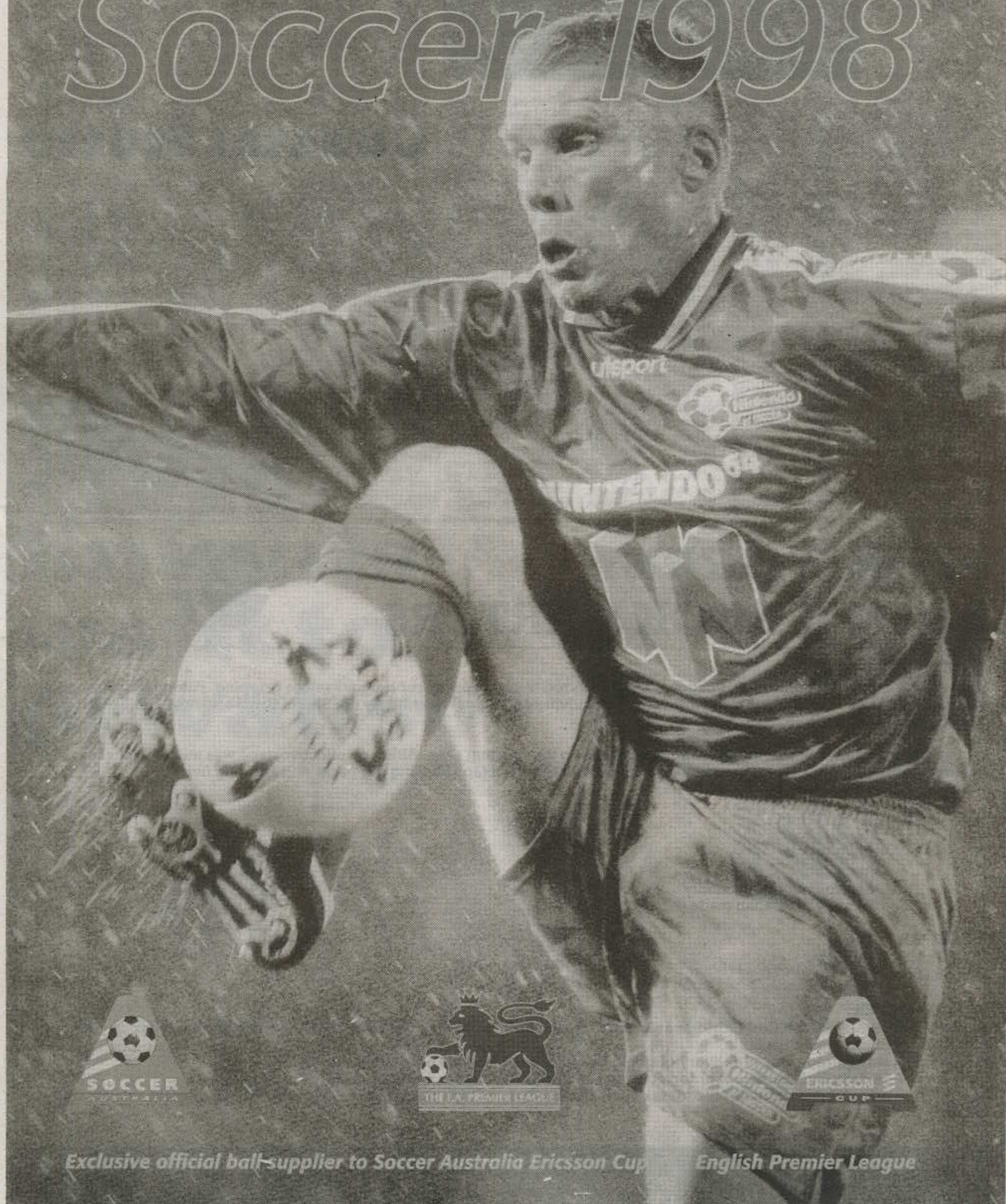
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Rams must aim for NSL says de Bruin

You have been around as a player and a coach at the highest levels in Australia, how do you rate the Macarthur Rams?
"It's potentially a good club.

"Obviously we have a long way to go but the playing standards have certainly improved.

"This is a National League area and I think that if we don't aim for this in the future it becomes a dead job.

"The calibre of players that this area has produced is high.

"Matthew Langdon, Paul Reid, Brett Emerton, Tynan Scope and now Shane Cansdell Sheriff are all examples.

"Unfortunately they have to leave this area to make a name for themselves and that is why I say we have to have a look to the future and put in place the structure for us to become an NSL club so we can keep players of that calibre at Macarthur."

John Turner, coach of Bonnyrigg, rates Macarthur as being one of the

Inside Soccer has begun to unearth talented young Australian soccer writers. In this first interview for Australia's top selling soccer publication DWAYNE PEARSON puts Macarthur Rams coach Casey de Bruin under the spotlight.

threats of the competition. Who are your main worries?

"Blacktown and Bonnyrigg have the two strongest squads.

"I also think that they are stronger in their depth than us and are both stable clubs.

"They are also better off financially than Macarthur and are therefore able to retain their players easier than we can.

"Our aim now is to raise more money so we too can retain our players."

What are your thoughts on summer soccer?

"Good for NSL but not for the State League.

"If I was a parent with \$15 to spend I would rather go to a NSL game than Super League.

"It also disrupts the players, especially those who attend Uni and work

in the summer months."

Last year you had Jason Connolly at Macarthur for a short while and the side was banging in the goals, even looking like contenders for the title. Do you think that Williams, Whiddett, McDonald and Aschner will give Macarthur the strike force that could make this the year?

"Yes. I think that we can do it.

"That's an area where we were pretty thin last year.

"When we had Connolly it gave us a bit of depth and it applied pressure there.

"We have that this year with either Williams or McDonald on the bench.

"Trevor Whiddett has been in good form up to date.

"When we get Aschner back then we have two spare and that applies a

bit more pressure but that won't happen until half way through the season."

How are your new signings adapting to the Rams style?

"Very well and I am very pleased. We don't have many new players but those that we have are adapting well.

"Shane Knight has adapted really well and will have a big year for us.

"Iain McDonald, although he hasn't been playing regularly, is doing a great job for us also and he has been the leading goal-scorer for the Rams during the trials and league games up to date."

Is there anything you would like to say to your club supporters?

"Yes, try and make more noise at the Rams home games - and encourage more people to come."

Two refs in Victoria: "you must be bloody joking"

INTERNATIONAL moves to have two referees during soccer matches have been given the red card by the Victorian Soccer Federation.

VSF chairman Joe Brondolino, who is also on the Soccer Australia board, said Victoria was struggling to cover the growing number of matches it had with a limited number of referees.

rees.

"At a state federation level I would say they have to be bloody joking," Brondolino said.

FIFA plans to implement a trial in professional leagues on all continents starting in July and run for the whole of the 1999-2000 season.

The trial would probably have referees each covering half the pitch.

Brondolino said more teams were now joining Victorian leagues, including a women's competition.

It was hard enough getting referees now without having to find additional whistle-blowers, he said.

"We really would have to go on a full recruiting drive to make up the numbers," he said.

Coastal Storm

By Stuart Bell

ILLAWARRA referees have come under fire - and the season proper hasn't kicked off yet.

In the last week TWO matches have had to be replayed because officiating referees couldn't count.

In the Lysaghts-Kemblawarra Corri-mal Leagues Club Cup game a penalty shoot out was called for after the two teams remained locked.

But after Lysaghts missed their second kick the referee blew time up - even although the southern Wollongong side could have still drawn level.

Referee ***** has come in for a lot of criticism since that controversy which resulted in both teams having to strip down and attend a 'replay' last Wednesday.

Up stepped Joe Coelho to score the goal for Kemblawarra which took them into last Sunday's semi final.

And a similar incident occurred in the midweek Austral Bricks Cup.

"How can you take things seriously when we have officials of that standard," one top side club official told *Inside Soccer*. "One mistake maybe, but two in the same week - and they are both about the same thing.

"Illawarra referees must be amongst the worst in Australia.

"Sure we have some good ones, but some of the guys running the game in this league are just a joke."

The comments are sure to spark the fuels of controversy on the Illawarra coast, not the least being at Soccer Illawarra HQ.

But in a more positive note for the under-siege Illawarra Soccer Association, long serving administrator Joan Hudson has had her position upgraded to full-time.

Mrs Hudson, the hard working officer of ISA, has almost single-handedly run the office in the last few years in a part-time situation.

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Life still tough at the bottom

By PAUL HARLEY

BRISBANE CITY 3 (Battistin, Carloss, own goal)
TOOWOOMBA UNITED 1 (Wingett)

CURRENT Premiers Brisbane City ground out a 3-1 win over the new kids on the block, Toowoomba United, on Saturday night to get their title defence back on track.

However, the Queensland Premier League newcomers didn't make life easy for City, and with just a little bit of

Taraborrelli.

The resultant corner was headed narrowly over by Mark Wingett.

They were made to pay when City went ahead in the 8th minute.

A corner was deflected into the path of Mark Battistin, and he lashed it into the net from about

with the outside of his foot from a difficult angle.

Thereafter City dominated for the remainder of the half, but rarely looked like adding to their score.

Nathan Carloss fired narrowly over from the edge of the penalty area, and Broadfoot had to

minutes from half time.

Damon Voss crossed from the right, Carloss met it perfectly on the volley at the edge of the area, and it screamed past Broadfoot and in off the underside of the bar.

Toowoomba had an immediate chance to equalise, when

Brisbane City: Taraborrelli, Voss, Carloss, Elliott, (Dessi), Geminelli, Jenkins, Haddow, Battistin, Tuck, Slater, (Cooley), Brownlie, (Vaugh)
Toowoomba United: Broadfoot, Willmot, Duncan, Wingett, (Thomas), Ramia, McLeod, (Biber), Wilkinson, Williams, Strong, Hyslop, (Fox), Freier
Referee: John Peacock
Assistants: Rob Eedy, Tony Brown.

with Toowoomba's Steve Strong cautioned for handball as Battistin raced clear.

The visitor's luck then seemed to have changed as they survived three scares in as many minutes.

First, a left wing cross by Cliff Tuck saw a mishit clearance fall perfectly for Shane Haddow, but he managed to hit the bar from two yards.

A couple of minutes later, Voss and Battistin set up Carloss, but Broadfoot was quickly off his line to save bravely at his feet.

The resultant corner was headed into the net by Cooley, but had already crossed the line for a goal kick before coming back into play.

Encouraged by their narrow escapes, Toow-

oomba fought their way back into the game, but around the midpoint of the half, contrived to miss two gilt edged chances to equalise.

It was perhaps unfortunate that both fell to recently introduced substitutes.

First a flowing move found Neil Thomas in space, 12 metres out, but he completely mishit his shot and the chance was gone.

Then Ashley Fox raced past Voss, leaving him one-on-one with Taraborrelli, but in slipping the ball wide of the keeper, he also put it wide of the post.

Toowoomba knew their luck had definitely turned for the worse once more, with the goal that sealed the points for City in the 80th minute.

A free kick was floated

in from the left, Broadfoot's attempted punch didn't connect properly, and the ball cannoned off the luckless Ramia into the net.

Not an entirely convincing win from City, but after last week's shock home defeat by Gold Coast, a welcome win nonetheless, which should see them in a more positive frame of mind for next week's visit to Mt. Gravatt.

For Toowoomba, some encouraging signs, and they'll be hoping that their endeavour is rewarded with a few points before too long.

Next week, though, sees another difficult away game at another of the League's heavyweights, Taringa Rovers, so they may have to wait just a little longer.



Brisbane City scorer Mark Battistin

luck could have taken something from the game.

Indeed, the visitors should have gone ahead as early as the 3rd minute.

With the City defence looking for offside, Leigh Ramia and Brett Hyslop found themselves in space, ten metres out, with only the goalkeeper to beat.

Unfortunately they got in each others way, and Ramia's weak shot was saved by Adriano

eight metres out, giving Peter Broadfoot no chance in the Toowoomba goal.

Toowoomba weren't discouraged, and shortly after a 22 metre drive by Chris McLeod produced a good diving save from Taraborrelli.

And after 18 minutes they drew level, Wingett racing onto a defence splitting through ball, confidently rounding Taraborrelli, and finishing with style, flicking the ball home

look smart to tip over two more powerful long range efforts from Chris Slater and Royce Brownlie.

Slater limped off around the half hour mark, and with his first touch replacement Warren Cooley produced another fine save from Broadfoot, a header from a free kick beaten out at full stretch.

However, he was helpless, as any other keeper would have been, to prevent City from regaining the lead five

Taraborrelli had to dive on a wayward Scott Elliott passback and concede an indirect free kick on the six yard line.

The ball was rolled into the path of Steve Willmot, his rocket shot deflecting off the massed City defence and over the top.

Shortly before the break, Brownlie pulled up clutching his hamstring, and he also limped off, replaced by Damian Vaugh.

The second half opened

Premier League Round Up.

In the weekends other fixtures, Rochdale Rovers fired a warning shot to the other QPL contenders by scoring seven away at the Gold Coast.

Coast, who started the weekend in second place after beating Brisbane City last week capitulated to an in-form Rovers outfit on Saturday night, with Kieran Cooper showing that he has lost none of his sharpness since coming out of retirement, as he and young Matt Olley scored two apiece.

Michael Legg, and Steve Fitzsimmons grabbed one each, whilst an own-goal completed the rout.

Rochdale now take the Coast's position in second place, whilst they tumble to fifth.

Bundaberg jump into fourth place after beating Taringa 1-0, also on Saturday night.

A Craig Hawkins strike in the second half the only goal of the game.

On Sunday Ipswich Knights' Nick Seeley scored a late winner to beat Mount Gravatt 2-1, with John Clark netting the other.

Andrew Garwood-Gowers scored the consolation for Mount Gravatt, who have still only registered one win from their four outings.

Brisbane Lions, however, are still the only unbeaten side, and stay top of the table, after their hard-fought 3-2 win over Wynnum.

The Wolves have yet to register a point, but gave Lions a scare going in at half-time 2-1 up, with goals from Anthony Roche and Aaron Thiesfeld.

Warren Allan's first half strike was added to by captain Darren Hillier and ex-Brisbane Striker Vedran Becirbegovic.

Next week, the tie of the round is Brisbane Lions trip to Bundaberg. Can the Waves be the first to take points from the unbeaten Lions?

Castle Hill United launch

ASPIRING New South Wales Federation side Castle Hill United is set to launch its season in style this Saturday with a public launch at the Castle Towers Shopping Centre in Sydney.

"We have taken the initiative to

have an official launch in a bid to encourage the community participation, awareness of the club's place in the district and to highlight its greatest asset, its young players" said official Rocco Polistina.

The event kicks off at 11.30am.

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The postie is late - but Mexico make it number 9

Mexico has become the ninth country to bid for the right to stage the 2006 World Cup - even though its application arrived at FIFA headquarters 20 days late, it was learned today.

The Mexican Football Federation blamed problems with airmail deliveries for the 20-day delay, according to a top FIFA source.

FIFA's executive committee now has to rule on

whether the bid should be considered.

Mexico has already twice staged the World Cup - in 1970 and in 1986, when it stepped in when the original host nation Colombia could not fulfil its requirements.

Mexico joins eight other countries in applying to stage the 2006 tournament.

Germany and England are the two European

candidates, while Brazil is the South American bidder.

Five African nations - Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, Morocco and South Africa - have also thrown their hats in, although South Africa is seen as the frontrunner for a continent that has never staged the World Cup.

A final decision on the host nation will be made by FIFA at the end of March, 2000.

The Cool Kid: he's happy to be setting up others

By Ian Parkes

Leeds' star striker Harry Kewell believes he should be hitting the target more often despite already having surpassed his goal tally from last season.

Kewell's 68th-minute header in the 2-0 win over Spurs in midweek was his ninth for the season, one more than he managed during the 1997-98 campaign.

But the Australian international feels he should have been well into double figures by now, particularly given his outstanding form over the last couple of matches.

Kewell was the star of the show in the 2-1 win at Leicester just under two weeks ago and was again on target as Leeds gained revenge

against Spurs for their FA Cup fifth-round defeat.

With 10 matches remaining starting with tomorrow's Yorkshire derby at Sheffield Wednesday, Kewell is banking on boosting his strike rate as United go gunning for a place in Europe.

"I'm happy in a way but I set myself a target and hopefully I can reach that by the end of the season," said Kewell.

"I feel against Leicester I should have got a hat-trick out of that game and against Spurs I should have got a couple as well.

"I've let myself down in front of goal, but at least we've been winning the games and hopefully that will mean I can produce more goals.

"I always try and help my team-mates out as well.

"I'll set Jimmy (Floyd Hasselbaink) up 12 times in a game; I'll set Alan Smith up 12 times.

"So if I only get set up once I'm not really bothered as long as we win the game.

"It's good to see all the lads pulling together, though. I think we're a good team now.

"We've got the players to produce good football, and I think other teams are aware of that.

"Within a couple of years I think we'll be up there."

Kewell is almost certain to be one of those offered a new deal this summer in the wake of manager O'Leary putting pen to paper to an extended contract in a few weeks' time.

The next meeting of the PLC board at the end of the month looks set to

ratify the five-year agreement which the Irishman has made clear he will be happy to sign.

With O'Leary on board long term, the players have already indicated they will follow suit in a bid to pursue the likes of Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea.

"Players have told me 'We'll sign as long as you're signing'. So I expect them all to be signing five-year contracts if that's what the club wants me to sign," O'Leary said.

"Even a lot of the senior lads have come to me and said they want to do the same thing, so it will be a wonderful boost that people like Kewell, (Jonathon) Woodgate and Smith will stay here for the next five years."

National Coaching Scheme

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Courses include topics such as learning what junior players enjoy when playing sport, basic first aid and safety requirements, sports medicine and the use of video analysis.

Currently the New South Wales Soccer Federation's Coaching Department is taking inquiries from potential candidates on (02) 96291800.

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Blacktown slam hapless Tigers

by Patrick Galloway

SATURDAY night, and the Blacktown City Demons, lead by a double from striker Stuart Cleary, toppled a hapless Leichhardt Tigers who struggled to find their feet throughout the match.

Leichhardt can now wave goodbye to second position on the New South Wales Super League ladder, while Blacktown continue to make inroads on the competition table.

The early stages of the match saw both sides tussling for domination.

Leichhardt's David James missed a good opportunity to give his side a one-nil advantage after some nifty footwork in the box.

His shot beat Blacktown keeper Fernando Graco - but much to the relief of the vocal Blacktown contingent, it scooted past the post.

Throughout the first half the right flank was a continual point of attack for Blacktown, and it was in the 33rd minute that a quick exchange of passes saw Peter Sermanni fly down the right wing and provide a pin-point cross for Stuart Cleary to head home into the back of the net.

Leichhardt responded with some penetrating runs by Chris Lansdowne and Hasan Kdouh, but things just didn't go their way, thanks namely to a very well organised Blacktown defence.

The same couldn't be

BLACKTOWN CITY 3 (Cleary 2, Bennett)

LEICHHARDT TIGERS 0

Venue: Gabbie Stadium

Man of the Match: Stuart Cleary (Blacktown City)

said for Leichhardt.

The usually outstanding Eric Hristodoulou at sweeper was, at times lacklustre in his distribution, allowing Blacktown attacks to start well into Leichhardt territory.

In the 44th minute, with the lads from Leichhardt looking forward to the half-time whistle, Steve Cutler floated a ball over from the right flank, Cleary masterfully flicked the ball on to the man they call 'J.B.' - Jason Bennett, who had time to compose himself and blast the ball into the top of the net, giving the home side a deserved 2-0 advantage at the break.

The start of the second period saw much of the same, with countless off-sides and poor support play frustrating the Tigers.

Blacktown, however, went from strength to strength, with both Chris Bradley and Stuart Cleary peppering the Leichhardt goal with some spectacular shots.

One couldn't help but think that without Frank Mikuletic, Leichhardt could have been in for a very embarrassing scoreline.

The Demons were rewarded for their second half dominance in the 81st minute when an in-swinging corner from second half substitute Steve Riches saw Cleary rise to meet the ball, and

safely head it low and to the near post, giving the Demon's an unassailable 3-0 lead with nine minutes remaining.

The Demon's certainly look in good stead at this stage of the season, and will take quite some beating in their next encounter against Ryde City at Cromer Park, while Leichhardt will have plenty to work on during the week in preparation for their round seven match against Canterbury Marrickville at Henson Park on Sunday.

IN other fixtures leaders Macarthur Rams kept their unbeaten record by defeating Bankstown City Lions 2-0.

Eric Williams and David Reid scored the goals that gave the Rams five wins from their opening six matches.

After re-laying the pitch at their Pluim Park ground and getting off to a solid start after five matches away from home, Central Coast must have fancied their chances of victory over winless Ryde.

Home advantage counted for nothing for the Coasties though, as former Soccerroo striker Scott Ollerenshaw scored twice for Ryde in 11 minutes to seal a 2-1 victory.

It had looked promising for Central Coast earlier, as leading marksman Nathan Byrn scored his

fifth of the season after 36 minutes.

Bonnyrigg took all three points away to Sutherland, with star striker Robert Gomez netting the first.

Further goals from Colin Luff and Mark Racker gave the White Eagles all three points, with Levi Stephen scoring for the Sharks.

Bonnyrigg's 3-1 win though was not without cost, as both players finished with 10 men, Bonnyrigg captain Paul Richardson being one of the men sent off.

Eastern Suburbs are now the only team in Super League without a win, after going down 3-1 at home to the in-form Fairfield Bulls.

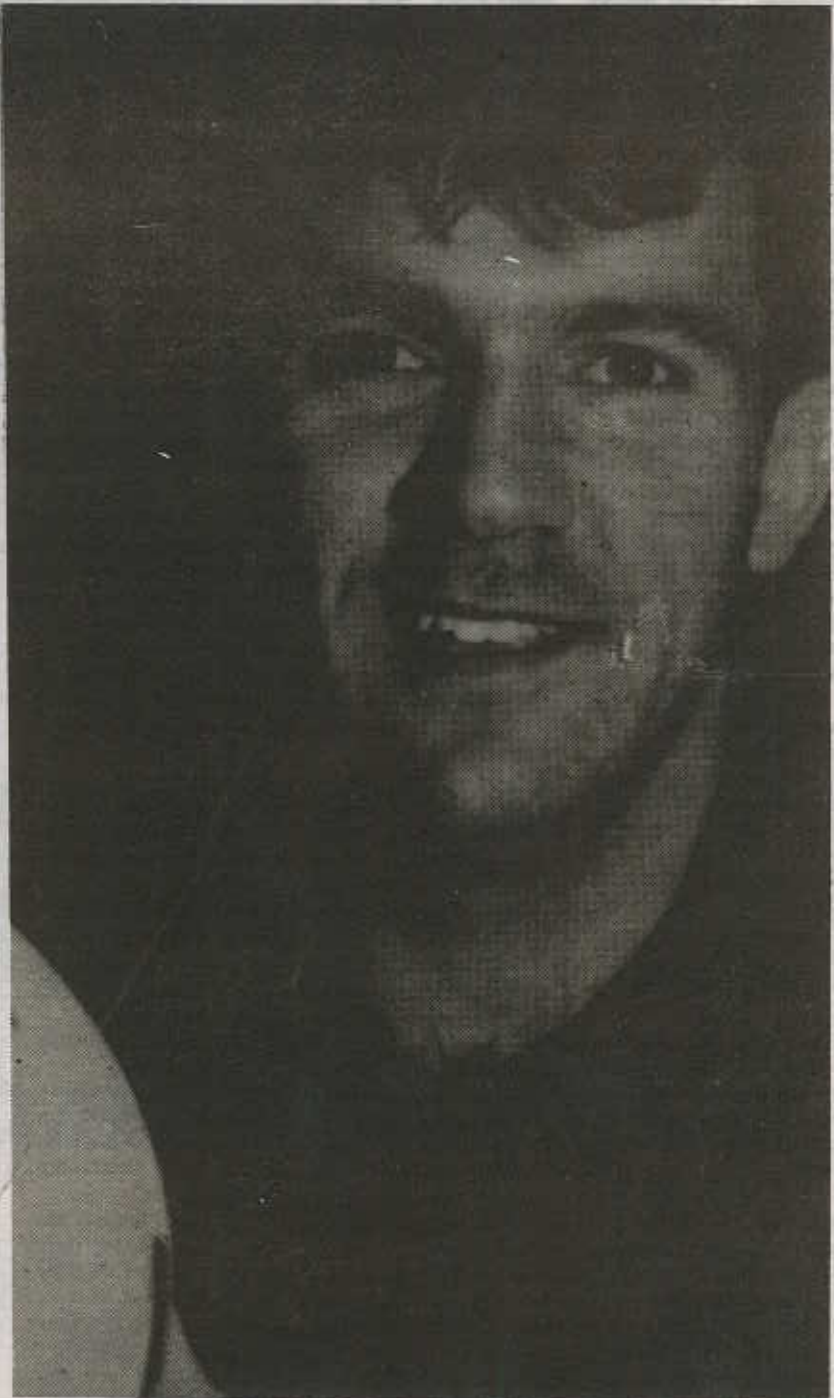
The Bulls, newly promoted from Division One, now stand in second place after a superb first half performance.

Matthew Borg scored twice to take his tally to 5, and also missed a penalty.

Strike partner Mark Hoenselaars netted the other Fairfield goal, while for Eastern Suburbs Peter Pulicino netted his fourth of the season.

Canterbury finally broke through for their first home win with a 2-1 success over Parramatta Eagles at Henson Park.

They led 2-0 with goals from Terry Palapanis and Jane Talcevski, but a late



strike by Grant Bard had them worried that they might fall at the last hur-

World Club Cup a welcome boost for Australian soccer

Soccer's long-debated World clubs competition will be launched next January, FIFA announced at the weekend.

The competition, which will feature top clubs from the six member confederations plus the winner of the existing world club championship and a team from the host nation, will take place from January 5-14.

A venue has yet to be announced and FIFA said it was still to be decided whether the tournament would be annual or biennial.

Each confederation will be able to choose its own representative.

The competition has had a lukewarm reception in many areas, particularly Europe, but UEFA president Lennart Johansson said his organisation would back it.

"I know the big clubs in the big nations were hesitant," he said.

"We already have problems with the Confederations' Cup but it was important for all the others.

"Of course we would like to have the winner of the Champions' League

representing Europe but if there are problems we are free to choose a team," added the Swede.

Australia's representative will almost certainly be the winner of the Ericsson Cup Grand Final.

Australian clubs have never competed in a major international competitive tournament.

In 1971 St George made history when it won the Tokyo International tournament, the forerunner of today's Kirin Cup.

That was the first serious overseas visit by an Australian club but since

then little progress has been made other than fleeting end of season trips. Two years ago plans were floated for a club competition involving teams from Asia, Oceania and America but nothing eventuated.

Despite the fact that the bigger countries will treat the event disparagingly it is a welcome opportunity for Australia and gives the NSL a big impetus at a time when crowds are on the verge of crashing through the one million barrier for the first time ever.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 7

Saturday 20th March

Central Coast v Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Pluim Park, 6:00pm

Sunday 21st March

Ryde City v Blacktown City Demons

Cromer Park (note change), 3:00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Sutherland Sharks

Jensen Park, 5:00pm

Fairfield Bulls v Macarthur Rams

Ninevah Field, 6:00pm

Canterbury-Marrickville v Leichhardt Tigers

Henson Park, 6:00pm

Parramatta Eagles vs Eastern Suburbs

Melita Stadium, 7:00pm

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Port Melbourne strike first blow

VPL BIG MATCH REPORT with Bert van Bedaf

IN THIS season's cut-throat environment, in which the club who finishes first wins the VPL title, Port Melbourne struck the first blow, beating nearest rival Green Gully 2-1, while the Cavaliers rued two costly goals and two missed chances at Anderson Reserve last Saturday.

Early title favourites, the Sharks shared 16 points at the top of the table with Gully, but they jumped to a three-point lead, enjoying their best start in six seasons at the state's highest level.

For the Cavaliers, it was another case of giving opposition teams ahead start, but whereas against lesser teams they've managed to come from behind and win, against the in-form Sharks the two-goal gap proved too wide to overhaul or bridge.

Earlier in the week, Green Gully beat Preston 2-1 to complete round six, with an opening goal by Steve Mangos who injured his jaw in the process and was taken to hospital.

Chris Emsovski equalised for Preston, but a penalty by Zdravko Atanasovski, for a foul on Daniel Genovesi, gave the Cavaliers victory.

Green Gully coach Ian Dobson already then had a bad feeling about the Port Melbourne game.

"We're going down there to get a result. But (if not) it's not the end of season and the season won't rest on one result," he said, as if pre-empting a negative outcome.

Twice the Cavaliers performed Houdini acts, beating South Dandenong 3-2 and Altona East 4-2, coming from two goals down, but two goals in the first eleven minutes against Port

PORT MELBOURNE 2 (Bell)
GREEN GULLY 1
Venue: Anderson Reserve

proved Tyson-like blows.

After eight minutes Port striker Peter Kakos turned his defender inside the area and three minutes later swooped on a costly mistake by Gully keeper Chris Vella to give his team a 2-0 lead.

Especially the second goal was disappointing, because Vella is an experienced and reliable 'keeper who rarely drops a ball.

But on this occasion he let slip a regulation cross by young Port talent George Tzirtzis, giving Kakos a golden opportunity to head home.

Port's lead was all the more painful, because Gully's main striker Daniel Genovesi had missed a sitter after only two minutes, while a minute later Vella had made an excellent save.

Proof of the Gully resilience came in the 22nd minute when George Georgiadis put through Genovesi who halved the deficit with a low strike underneath Port 'keeper Jamie Cooper.

The Cavaliers could have equalised in the 37th minute, but Cooper thwarted the one-on-one with Zlatko Donev, who was put through by Brandon Vassallo.

The second half was decidedly less exciting, with both teams creating few chances that either went wide or were saved.

Genovesi's shot in the 64th minute went wide.

Port's Nick Tsaltas should have scored in the 71st minute with only Vella to beat, but he let the ball bounce away from his feet, and Genovesi's header in the 76th minute was ruled

offside by referee Perry Mur.

Port coach Peter Tsolakis said the second goal was "the turning factor".

"It was the goal that gave us victory. It looked like a blunder by the 'keeper (Vella), but Kakos was in the right place," Tsolakis said.

"We work on training at that.

"You have to get your crosses in, because anything can happen from those wide positions.

"And it showed tonight.

"Something happened and Kakos was right there to put it in.

"We knew it was going to be a hard match with a top of the table clash and I thought we defended well in the second half.

"We knew Gully would come at us.

"I was pretty happy with the result.

Tsolakis is aware of keeping his Sharks in calm waters and stopping them from becoming over-confident.

The way things are now, it could be their year to take the title for the first time.

"We're getting in a winning habit," he said.

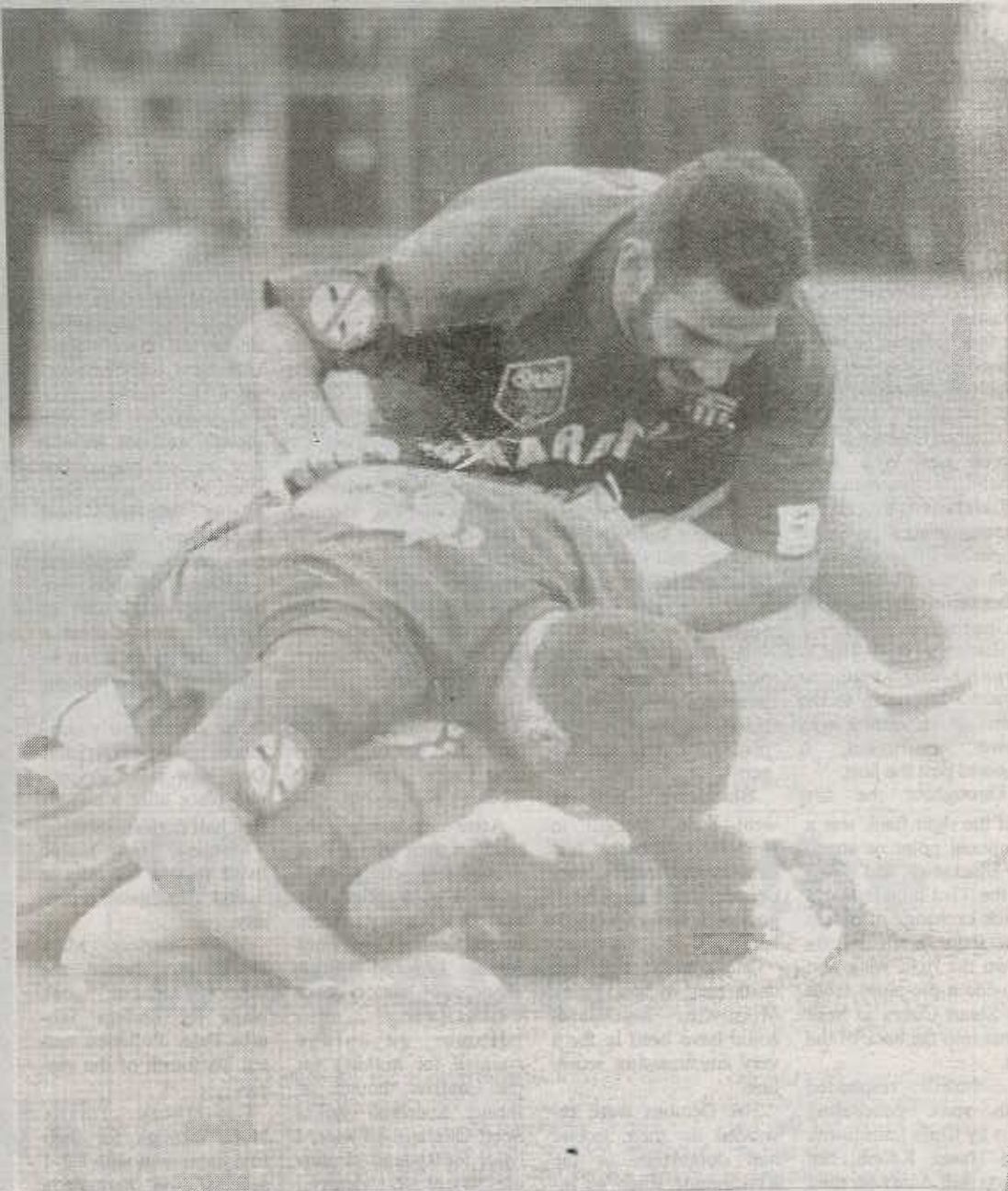
"That's good and the boys are confident.

"They're talking about a championship and realistically they have to, but I've got to keep their heads level, because there's another 18 rounds to go and anything can happen."

The player-coach ruled out putting himself on the park at this stage.

"I wouldn't change anything at the moment," he said.

Green Gully coach Ian Dobson no doubt wished



Peter Tsolakis: Port's player coach who is being kept out of his own side by good results

some things would change, for example, that his defence would stop fumbling and scoring opportunities were not squandered.

"We gave another team a two-goal start," he said.

"That's not so bad against lesser teams, but you can't do that against a top side.

"And then there were two simple chances we missed as well.

"We've just got to re-

group ourselves and look towards next week's game.

"It's another hard one against the defending champion (Bulleen).

"We've still got a lot of work to do.

"We've got the midfield fairly organised, but at the back we're making too many mistakes and we can't keep on doing that week in week out."

IN OTHER results, on

Sunday night, Altona East and Bentleigh Greens drew 1-1.

Preston Lions beat Fawkner Blues 2-1 with ten men.

Altona Magic registered their second win in a row, beating Springvale 3-2 and South Dandenong slaughtered the Sunshine Georgies 6-1.

IN ROUND 8, Altona Magic play Sunshine at Paisley Park and South Dandenong meet Altona

East at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday.

On Sunday, St Albans are at home to Springvale.

Fawkner host Port Melbourne and Bentleigh Greens play Preston.

On Monday night, the Melbourne Raiders welcome Westvale at their Epping ground, while Green Gully and Bulleen meet under the Gully lights for the clash of the round.

Season overhaul mooted by FIFA boss

By Andrew Warshaw

THE soccer season in every country in the world will run in one calendar year from February to November if a proposal announced by world soccer's governing body FIFA on Sunday is adopted.

The proposal, which FIFA would like to start in 2005, includes Europe, where apart from Scandinavia and

some domestic leagues involving countries from the former Soviet Union, the traditional soccer season runs from the autumn to the following spring.

The change would affect big soccer nations such as Italy, England, Germany and Spain, as well as the smallest and would affect all traditional tournaments such as the English FA Cup Final and the European Cup

Final which have been played in the spring since their inception.

FIFA also wants the top division in every country cut to 16 teams by 2005 to make the new "harmonised" system work.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, announcing the long-awaited "harmonisation of the calendar", said everyone would have to "sacrifice something" to make it

work. Blatter, acknowledging that the calendar could not come into force until 2005 at the earliest, said FIFA's blueprint suggests the season would run from February to November, with a four-week rest period in December and January being used for pre-season training and friendly competitions.

"Such a plan would give us 88 available dates in 44 weeks," said Blatter.

"The players would be better pre-

pared for, say, the World Cup because they would have had a good rest earlier in the year to put up their feet."

Blatter said Confederations who traditionally play matches and tournaments in December and January would have to move them.

"Everyone has to sacrifice a little," said Blatter who added that the new calendar would be based on league program of no more than 16 teams per league.

Asked how countries like England, who currently have 20 top division clubs, could reduce that to 16 over the next four years, a FIFA spokesman said: "It will be difficult but they have to make an effort."

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP

With Roy Hay

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Albury v Knights

Albury Wodonga finally recorded its first win of the season away to the Melbourne Knights on Sunday by two goals to one.

Serhat Hulusi scored for the Knights after 34 minutes and it seemed as if this match would go the same way as the others for Albury Wodonga.

But in 73 minutes Quentin O'Grady equalised and two minutes later Thomas Pizzini scored the goal which will be remembered for a long time by the lads from the border.

Carlton v South

Carlton kept its top spot with a two-one win over South Melbourne in its first match at Olympic Park.

Deniz Ekici scored both goals for Carlton.

Bulleen v Falcons

Bulleen Inter completed a round of two-one scorelines with a victory over Gippsland Falcons on Saturday.

Sasha Bulut saved a penalty to keep Bulleen level in the 18th minute, then three goals were scored in a five minute spell.

First Denis Mustac scored after a scramble in the Bulleen goalmouth with Bulut getting a hand to the ball but being unable to stop it.

Two minutes later Berkan Sakaci equalised and three minutes after that Damien Guglielmi grabbed the winner.

It was a good match with lots of chances, and

some superb defending by both keepers.

Mark Tsiorlas of Bulleen who turned sixteen recently is off to join the VIS.

NORTHERN DIVISION

AIS v ACTAS

The Australian Institute of Sport downed the ACT Academy by four goals to nil, in the final match in Round 23 last Monday, with Elias Dimourtzidis, Luke Pantelis, John Cvetanovski and Ljubo Milicevic scoring the goals.

AIS v Olympic

Then on Saturday it hammered the Sydney Olympic Academy by eight goals to nil in Round 24.

Kevo Gulesserian's hat-trick was the highlight, but Todd Brodie and Joshua Kennedy also scored twice, with the final goal falling to Wes Bryatt.

Breakers v Wolves

Newcastle Breakers had a six-one win on Wednesday over Wollongong Wolves Colts in a Round 16 catch-up game.

Paul Wheeler's double was complemented by singles from David Ross, Tony Majurovski, Chris Tanchevski and an own goal, while Panayotis Tzolakidis replied for the Colts.

Breakers v Marconi

Then the Breakers came unstuck against Marconi going down by three goals to one.

Chris Tanchevski scored again, but this time it was Michael Beecham, Mark Hagger and Luke Tomich who were the scorers on the winning side.

Spirit v United

Northern Spirit Colts had a fine two-one away win over Sydney United Colts with goals from Todd

Macrae and Michael Prentice.

Paul Badjkovic scored for United.

It was a pretty physical match, with United reduced to ten men.

The two scorers and John Turco were the tops for Spirit.

Marconi v QAS

Marconi Fairfield Colts upset QAS with a four-three win at Marconi Stadium.

For QAS, which did not hit its straps, Owen Filewood scored twice for QAS and Laurence Drake scored the other.

John MacKain was the pick of the QAS defenders.

The scorers for Marconi Colts were not available at time of writing.

Wolves v United

Wollongong Wolves beat Sydney United two-one at Brandon Park.

Peter Karavatakis and

Chad Bishop with a penalty scored for the Wolves and Steven Bosevski for United.

Olympic v Spirit
Sydney Olympic welcomed back Nick Carle after a long spell out with injury and he made an immediate impact with three fine goals.

The other four came from individual scorers, Lee Miot, Carlos Gonzalez, Peter Biviano and Paul Kohler.

The win keeps Olympic firmly in second place.

Spirit v United

Finally in a Round 17 catch up game Northern Spirit beat Sydney United Colts seven-nil.

Daniel Watkins' hat-trick did most of the damage, his third coming from the penalty spot in 86 minutes.

Paul Foster scored two, while Adam Snyder and newcomer Milos Milova-



The Victorian Institute of Sport

Leading goalscorers

(Southern Division)

Andrew Mashoian South Melbourne 15

Scott McDonald VIS 7

Tony Ouliaris Carlton 7

Erhan Bayraktar South Melbourne 7

(Northern Division)

Mark Hagger Marconi 18

Kevo Gulesserian AIS 17

Simon Catanzaro NSWIS 16

Daniel Kukucka Sydney United 14

Elias Demourtzidis AIS 13

Russell Miner QAS 11

Forthcoming matches

Southern Division

Round 25

Saturday 20 March

Bulleen Inter v Knights (Anderson Park, 4 pm)

Albury Wodonga v Carlton (Myrtleford, 6 pm)

Sunday 21 March

South Melbourne v VIS (Bob Jane 3.30 pm)

Gippsland Falcons v Bye

Northern Division

Wednesday 17 March 1999

NSWIS v Wollongong Wolves, (Valentine Park, 7 pm, Round 2)

Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield (Edensor Park, 5 pm, Round 17)

Round 25

Friday 19 March

Bye v Northern Spirit

Newcastle Breakers v AIS, (Breakers Stadium, 5.45 pm)

Saturday 20 March

Northern Spirit v ACTAS, (Cromer Park, 4 pm)

Marconi Fairfield v Sydney United Colts,

(Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)

Northern Spirit Colts v Wollongong Wolves, (Christie Park, 4 pm)

Sydney United v QAS, (Edensor Park, 4 pm)

Wollongong Wolves Colts v NSWIS, (Brandon Park No 2, 4 pm)

Sunday 21 March

Sydney Olympic Academy v Marconi Fairfield Colts, (Wentworth Park, 4 pm)

Sydney Olympic v Marconi Fairfield, (Marconi Stadium, 6 pm)

Wednesday 24 March

Sydney United Colts v Marconi Fairfield Colts, (Marconi Stadium, 6.30 pm, Round 16)

New World Cup format

By Jeremy Walker

Japan and South Korea will present FIFA with a new format for the 2002 World Cup this week aimed at increasing revenue by holding more matches.

The organising committee for the first World Cup in Asia will meet at FIFA headquarters in Zurich and one of the items on the agenda is a possible change in the schedule for the 32 teams, producing a total of 76 games as opposed to 64 in France last northern summer.

With both countries intending to use 10 stadiums each for the month-long tournament, they need more cash to help

offset the costs - and FIFA has already decided that the co-hosts can keep all revenue from ticket sales.

The new format would involve replacing the second round and quarter-final knockout stages with a second phase of group matches.

The first round would be the same as in France, with eight groups of four teams (48 games), but the top two from each group would then go into four new four-team groups, producing 24 games in the second round.

Only the winner of each group would progress to the semifinals.

The English language Daily Yomiuri quoted a

source as saying: "One concern is that we wouldn't want an excessive burden on the players, but a team reaching the final would play only one more game than in France: eight instead of seven."

"At the moment it's just one idea, one option, that is being put forward to FIFA, but both countries have asked for it to be on the agenda this week."

On a visit to the Far East last November and December, FIFA president Sepp Blatter assured the co-hosts there would be no financial shortfall, despite the fact "there will be expenses for two World Cups but income only for one."

Korea and Japan wanted to stage the World Cup in their own right but accepted a joint-host arrangement in 1996.

The dates for the 2002 World Cup have also to be fixed, and the co-hosts are keen to complete the tournament by the end of June to avoid the rainy season.

They feel they could stage the 48 first-round group games within 10 days, about six days quicker than in France.

The system used in France has been operating since the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

The last time there were two groups or phases was in 1982 in Spain.



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Jesus: that man is at it again

By Graham Cooke

CANBERRA Cosmos turned in its best display so far in this year's national soccer league campaign to beat Carlton 2-0 last Monday, leaving coach Tom Sermanni contemplating the possibility of his team getting off the foot of the table.

"It's an outside chance, but next week we're away to Melbourne Knights who are just above us, it will be a six point game," he said after that match.

"Quite honestly, if we continue to play as well as we did tonight, we will be picking up points regularly."

Sermanni named near veteran defender Doug Marcina as his player of the match.

Marcina was involved

Cosmos aiming to get off the bottom rung with shock home win over Carlton

in both goals.

"He was just like the Doug of days gone by, coming forward adding weight to the attack just when he was needed," Sermanni said.

"Our second goal must be a candidate for goal of the season."

Canberra gave notice it was intending to give the visitors a tough night when after just 30 seconds Anthony Magnacca dispossessed Con

a sizzling drive which was too good for goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis but rattled against the crossbar. Magnacca and Marcina both had good chances before the home side took a deserved lead.

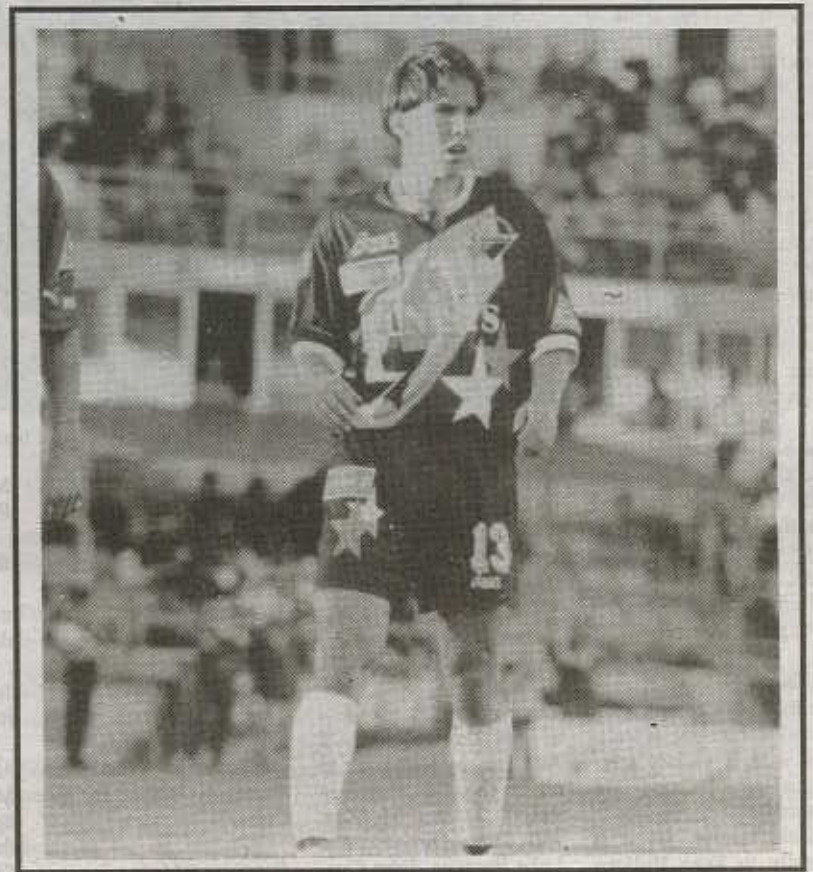
With 32 minutes gone Marcina crossed from the right, received the ball back from a defender's block and on the second attempt found Ivo de Jesus who turned and played the ball past Anastasiadis.

Within four minutes the Cosmos scored its second goal and again Marcina was involved.

This time with a superb run, a one-two pass played with de Jesus and a cross for striker Peter Buljan to head home.

Carlton began the second half in much better fashion and Marcus Stergiopoulos squandered his side's best attempt of the match when he blazed wide with only goalkeeper Wilson Knezevic to beat.

Then Cosmos came close to going 3-0 up when Joe Tricarico turned a Buljan header off the line.



Peter Buljan: scored another in the Canberra revival

CANBERRA COSMOS 2 (de Jesus, Buljan)
CARLTON 0
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Man of the Match: Doug Marcina CANB

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Marconi undone by Lee's grafters

By Anthony Raineri

GIANT goalkeeper Bob Catlin ensured Newcastle Breakers brought home three national soccer league points instead of one when they defeated Marconi-Fairfield 1-0 at Marconi Stadium on Saturday.

Newcastle were desperately protecting their lead with 10 minutes to go when Marconi midfielder Darren McDonald thundered a 35m shot towards goal.

Catlin, a former long-time Marconi player, dived at full-stretch parrying a certain goal to safety.

The Novocastrians survived several more tense moments to record their first ever away victory over the Sydneysiders.

Newcastle won the match in the 11th minute with a spec-

tacular goal by former Under-17 international Tom Haythornthwaite.

Experienced defender Robert Shannon crossed from the right wing where Haythornthwaite thundered a sideways scissors kick past a helpless Marconi keeper Ante Covic into the right hand corner of the goal.

Newcastle should have been 2-0 ahead 11 minutes later when teenager Greg Owens missed a sitter.

Captain Shane Pryce thumped a ball upfield where Marconi's Pan-Keun Kim headed straight into Owens who gathered the rebound and missed the target with only the keeper to beat.

Newcastle absorbed Marconi's pressure into the second half and missed another op-

portunity to double their lead.

The Novocastrians counter attacked and had the numbers over a back-peddalling Marconi defence.

Owens strike from outside the penalty area was blocked by Covic and the keeper had to immediately dive at the feet of striker John Buonavoglia who was charging in hoping to poke home the rebound.

Defender Andy Roberts was Newcastle's unsung hero.

He shut down Marconi's leading scorer and captain Brad Maloney who was playing striker for the first time this season.

Marconi coach Frank Farina said the loss had nullified the crucial away 3-2 away victory over Adelaide Sharks last week.

"The service from our flanks

was atrocious," he said.

"We were getting in position but the crossing was really bad.

"I was also disappointed with a number of our senior players.

"But full credit to Newcastle, they got the early goal, then sat back and we couldn't break them."

Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey, who was the assistant at Marconi last season, did not apologise for his tactics.

"Against sides like Marconi and South Melbourne we can't open up the field," he said.

"We haven't got the power or stamina to do that.

"So if you play smart you can still suck in teams like them.

"They are not negative tactics."

Sterrey had a successful stint at Marconi as a youth grade coach and assistant coach to Zoran Matic.

Suggestions in the Newcastle press have linked him to a similar role next season.

However, a club official has disputed the story.

"It isn't true," *Inside Soccer* was told.

"There is no question that

Frank Farina's job is in any jeopardy and there has not been any approach to Lee whatsoever.

"Lee is well regarded by this club and he was extremely successful here but that is a relationship which is in the past.

"We have definitely not made an approach to him."



Sterrey's contract with the Breakers is due for renegotiation shortly and with speculation mounting that the proposed buy out of the club will not go ahead his future is in some doubt also.

Sterrey has performed a miracle at Newcastle this season but opportunities in the Ericsson Cup are extremely limited.

**MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1 (Haythornthwaite)**
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Man of the Match: Andy Roberts NEWC

Keeper sent packing in feisty clash in Perth

PERTH Glory took its National Soccer League winning streak to five games with a 1-0 victory in a bruising encounter with the Gippsland Falcons at Perth Oval.

The Ericsson Cup crowd pleasers who boast the best offensive record in the League, were forced to rely on gritty defence rather than the glut of goals from recent weeks to secure the points.

The only goal came in the 45th minute when striker Alistair Edwards made the most of a penalty against Falcons defender Andy Vargas.

Both sides played the final 28 minutes of the match with 10 men after Falcons' Adrian Savage and the Glory's goalkeeper Danny Milosevic (pictured) were sent off.

Referee Jeff Tippet produced the red cards after an incident which threatened to

erupt into a brawl as players from both sides formed a pack in the mid-field and began to push and shove.

The hostility arose after Gippsland midfielder Savage knocked Glory wing-back Scott Miller to the ground behind play.

When Milosevic left his box to remonstrate, he joined Savage on the sideline.

The Falcons, third from the bottom in 13th place on the ladder, were not expected to trouble third-placed Perth who had notched four straight wins.

Its winning streak is largely due to a golden spell in front of goal where it has kicked 16 goals to take its season tally to 43, the highest of any side in the



League.

The first half looked set to follow the script as Bobby Despotovski, Con Boutsianis and Robert Trajkovski all had legitimate chances to score.

But it was not until the 45th minute that Perth was able to find the back of the net through Edwards.

**PERTH GLORY 1 (Edwards)
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0**
Venue: Perth Oval
Man of the Match: Alistair Edwards PRTH

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



Round 25: 19/21 March

Friday 19 March

Newcastle Breakers v Carlton
Breakers Stadium 8.00pm
Northern Spirit v Canberra Cosmos
North Sydney Oval 7.30pm
Adelaide Sharks v Melbourne Knights
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm

Saturday 20 March

Marconi Fairfield v Perth Glory
Marconi Stadium 7.00pm

Sunday 21 March

South Melbourne v Adelaide City
Bob Jane Stadium 6.00pm
Gippsland Falcons v Wollongong Wolves
Mobil Park 7.00pm
Sydney United v Brisbane Strikers
Edensor Park 5.00pm

Bye: Sydney Olympic

NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.

ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988

Kelic makes the point

By Bert van Bedaf

MELBOURNE Knights widened the gap at the bottom of the NSL table to nine points when they beat cellar-dweller Canberra Cosmos 3-0 at Knights Stadium on Sunday.

The Cosmos missed a first-half penalty, hit the crossbar twice and let slip another half dozen scoring chances.

On the other hand, Knights strikers Ice Kutlesovski and Ivan Kelic made the most of three opportunities after the break for the Knights' best win this season.

Knights coach Joe Biskic was looking to climb another two or three spots up the ladder while Canberra coach Tom Sermanni conceded the loss had consigned

his team to the wooden spoon.

"It seals our fate at the bottom," Sermanni said.

Biskic acknowledged his team had been a tad lucky.

"We started off not that well, but the missed penalty was a turning point for us," said Biskic.

The Cosmos failed to go ahead after 33 minutes when Peter Buljan had his penalty blocked by goalkeeper Martin John after Joe Rajher had fouled Buljan in the box.

Both Cosmos and the Knights had late chances in the first half but Buljan

shot wide and Kutlesovski failed to connect.

But then Kutlesovski made no mistakes with his second attempt in the 49th minute heading home the opening goal from a pin-point cross by Ante Deak.

Kelic doubled the Knights' lead in the 71st minute with a close-range shot from a Kutlesovski cross.

He scored his second in the 88th minute with a steal after a good build-up by Ante Kavacevic and a low-cross by Kutlesovski.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 3 (Kelic 2, Kutlesovski)
CANBERRA COSMOS 0
Venue: Knights Stadium
Man of the Match: Ivan Kelic MELK

City unearth new whizz kid in 3-0 romp

By Sam Lienert

Sixteen-year-old midfielder Louis Brain became a hero 44 minutes into his first NSL match on Sunday with the opening goal of a 3-0 Adelaide City victory over the Brisbane Strikers at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The win consolidated Adelaide's position in the Top Six which the Strikers would have taken had they won tonight.

It also provided coach Zoran Matic with cause for celebration in his 300th game at the helm of an NSL club.

Brain's goal was a fitting reward for a hard-working game, the enthusiastic youngster covering plenty of ground to give City the lead just before half-time with a brilliant individual effort.

He took control of the ball about 30 metres from goal, passed to Bradley Armour near the left cor-

ADELAIDE CITY 3 (Brain, Tobin, Mori)
BRISBANE STRIKERS 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Man of the Match: Alex Tobin ADLC

ner then connected with a lunging right-foot shot from the edge of the box on Armour's return pass.

The home side sealed the match early in the second half, captain Alex Tobin and striker Damian Mori both scoring in the first eight minutes to take the 3-0 lead.

Tobin, who was solid in defence all night, came forward for an Adelaide corner and headed home a Carlo Talladira cross, then Mori converted a simple chance after a clever pass from Carl Veart wrong-footed three defenders.

Adelaide's goalkeeper Jason Petkovic pulled out a string of excellent saves to keep a clean sheet.

Forwards Sean Cranney

and Kasey Wehrman looked dangerous for the Strikers early in the match, but defenders Angelo Costanzo, Milan

Ivanovic and Tobin were able to absorb the early pressure until their side began to control the match.



Alex Tobin

Lozza's deadly crosses blitz Blues

By Paul Millar

SOUTH Melbourne tightened its vice-like grip on the top of the Ericsson Cup soccer ladder with 3-0 victory over cross-town rivals Carlton at Olympic Park on Sunday.

Two crushing first half headers from Nick Orlic set the reigning champions on the path to victory and a sweeping right foot drive from Steve Panopoulos after the break finished off Carlton.

Carlton eagerly wanted to put a show on at its new home ground but South gatecrashed the party with Goran Lozanovski the provider for all three strikes.

The loss was a devastating result for Carlton whose season has fallen apart after winning only one game in the last eight.

South coach Ang Postecoglou said his side could have cruised at 2-0 but wanted to lift the pace in the second half and warned that the champion still had plenty in reserve before it peaked.

Nothing went right for Carlton all night and before a ball had been kicked it lost New Zealand international Sean Douglas after he tore his hamstring in the warm-ups.

The dark blues started brightly in a repeat of last year's Grand Final and took the game to South.

But with some of the 8,000 fans still arriving Lozanovski, who was back after being sidelined for two months with a foot fracture, whipped a cross into the penalty area.

Orlic flung himself at the pass heading home after eight minutes.

The warning bells were ringing for Carlton but the backline had selective deafness.

Lozanovski then hit another in-swing, Orlic was unmarked for a carbon copy header making it 2-0 after 35 minutes.

There was no way South was going to lose this game after that and except for a late rally by Carlton, it was almost one-way traffic.

Lozanovski hit a swerving

cross into the Carlton box, Steve Panopoulos met it on the run and curled it past the full length dive of Dean Anastasiadis, it was 3-0 after 54 minutes and the noisy Carlton faithful had been silenced.

South should have gone further ahead, Fausto de Amicis clipped the crossbar, Jason Polak went close and Carlton was chasing shadows.

Postecoglou said with Con Blatsis and David Clarkson still to return from injury South would go from strength to strength.

"In the meantime we haven't missed a beat even though we've been missing key players," he said.

"It's why we are the best team in the country.

"I think we can improve, we've got a hard stretch of games we've already been through two of them and we're still undefeated and I think the players will raise the level of their performance," he said.

Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic said his side was paying the penalty for losing Simon Colosimo and Marco Bresciano to the Young Soceroos and he had been forced to try untested teenagers.

He was bitterly disappointed with a lack of commitment

from striker Alex Moreira who came off with an ankle injury

when Carlton was struggling. "I think his character really

needs to be built up," he said.



Goran Lozanovski: destroyed Carlton with pin point precision

CARLTON 0
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (Orlic 2, Panopoulos)
Venue: Olympic Park
Man of the Match: Goran Lozanovski SMEL

Drab Olympic still grab the points

By Ted Simmons

SYDNEY Olympic striker Norm Tome, one of the smallest players in the team, found unexpected springs to outjump the Adelaide Sharks defence to score the lone goal in the 1-0 success at Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday.

The goal, two minutes before half time, was one of the few bright moments in a drab national soccer league display.

Tome slipped unmarked behind the defence to meet a Mark Brennan free kick and planted the ball in the roof of the net.

Both teams were guilty of wild passes and poor control although the woodwork was more responsible for the

shortage of goals.

Olympic's league leader Pablo Cardozo smacked the crossbar in the 15th minute and again 11 minutes from time while Sharks striker Joel Porter was also denied by the woodwork in the fourth minute.

Olympic coach Branko Culina said the loss of his mid-field had a marked effect on his team with Jason Culina and Brett Emerton away with the Young Socceroos, Peter Tsekenis suspended and Chris Kalantzis injured.

"We've lost the entire mid-field and were under a lot of pressure with everyone saying we had to win," Culina said.

"The team has played bad in the past and lost and it's about

time we had a poor game but came away with the points."

Culina started with three strikers in an effort to boost his attack but the Sharks had the better of the opening session.

Porter's miss was followed by Richie Alagich shooting across the face of the goal and Corey Artone forcing Olympic keeper George Bouhoutsos into a point blank save.

Alagich also tested the keeper with some long range drives which were on target but parried by the Olympic custodian.

"I've got to be disappointed. The first half was terrible and our defence has been a problem," said Sharks coach Adrian Santrac.

"The financial situation in the club with players owed wages did not affect the team either at training or in games.

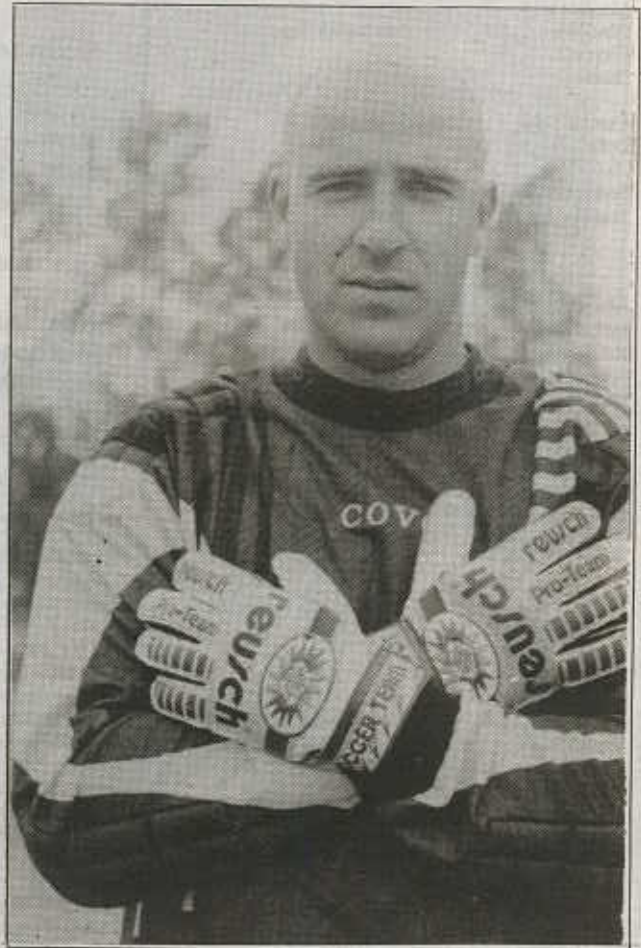
"If they had been affected, I would expect them to put up their hand and get out."

Cardozo, who has scored 17 goals so far this season, just could not find the range.

He was in position both times when he hit the crossbar to put away the shots but tried too hard.

Brennan was also dangerous with a dipping free kick soon after half time which was tipped away for a corner but most of Olympic's scoring problems came from a reluctance to shoot after breaking through into the penalty area.

"With players out of position because of absences, it's a confidence factor which has to be resolved," said Culina.



George Bouhoutsos: point blank saves

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Tome)
ADELAIDE SHARKS 0
Venue: Belmore Sports Ground
Man of the Match: George Bouhoutsos SOLY

United lone strike silences 10 man Wolves

By Mike Driscoll

A disciplined Sydney United ground out an important 1-0 victory over Wollongong Wolves in the Sunday night national soccer league clash at Brandon Park.

Nathan Day scored the winner in the 42nd minute, on hand after Jacob Burns' header rebounded off the left post.

Second placed United defended stoutly in the second half, often having seven or eight men behind the ball.

Wollongong tried hard, and Scott Chipperfield was a constant menace, but as so often this season lacked a reliable finisher.

When the Wolves did create chances United goalkeeper Mike Gibson made the telling saves, including turning away substitute Esala Masi's goal-bound shot five minutes from fulltime.

The United defence again well marshalled by Velimir Kupresak did a superb job, particularly after halftime.

Wollongong was reduced to 10 men with defender David Huxley sent off in the 74th minute for a tackle from behind on Burns.



Matt Horsley: the Wollongong Wolves skipper's side are out of Top Six contention after their home loss to Sydney United

Sydney United was without Australian under-20 strikers Mile Strejovski and Joel Griffiths for the first time with both away with the national

team preparing for next month's World Youth Cup in Nigeria.

The Wolves had the better of the first half hour with

striker Ray Younis and Chipperfield combining for two good chances.

The first in the 19th minute saw Chipperfield's shot deflected just wide then in the 26th minute Gibson denied Chipperfield again with a fine save.

In the 33rd minute United created its first worthwhile

chance when the ever busy Burns struck a left foot shot from just outside the penalty box which rebounded off the post.

Then in the 42nd minute United grabbed what was to prove the winner.

Midfielder Michael Santalab delivered a fine cross which Burns met with a solid header

which beat Wolves keeper Les Pogliacomi and struck the post.

Day was on hand to score with the goal coming slightly against the run of play.

The Wolves pressed forward in the second half but had no answer for the disciplined and professional United defence.

WOLLONGONG CITY WOLVES 0
SYDNEY UNITED 1 (Day)
Venue: Brandon Park
Man of the Match: Scott Chipperfield WOLL

SCOREBOARD

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NEW SOUTH WALES

SUPER LEAGUE: First Grade, Round 6

March 13/14
Blacktown City 3 Cleary 2
Bennett

Central Coast 1 Ryde City 2
Byrn Ollerenshaw 2

Sutherland Sharks 1 Bonnyrigg 3
Stephen Gomez
Racker
Luff

Macarthur Rams 2 Bankstown City 0
Williams
Reid

Canterbury 2 Parramatta Eagles 1
Palapanis Bard
Talcevski

Eastern Suburbs 1 Fairfield Bulls 3
Pulicino Hoenselaars
Borg 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Macarthur Rams	6	5	1	0	14	6	16
Fairfield Bulls	6	4	1	1	12	8	13
Blacktown City	6	4	0	2	11	5	12
Bonnyrigg	6	3	1	2	15	11	10
Leichhardt Tigers	6	3	1	2	12	8	10
Bankstown City	6	3	0	3	13	12	9
Canterbury	6	2	2	2	12	9	8
Parramatta Eagles	6	2	1	3	5	8	7
Central Coast	6	2	1	3	7	12	7
Ryde City	6	1	2	3	9	12	5
Sutherland Sharks	6	1	1	4	7	15	4
Eastern Suburbs	6	0	1	5	6	17	1

SUPER LEAGUE: Second Grade, Round 6

March 13/14
Blacktown City 3 Leichhardt Tigers 0
Central Coast 0 Ryde City 4

Sutherland Sharks 1 Bonnyrigg 0
Macarthur Rams 3 Bankstown City 1
Canterbury 0 Parramatta Eagles 1
Eastern Suburbs 1 Fairfield Bulls 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bonnyrigg WE	6	4	0	2	10	4	12
Macarthur	6	4	0	2	14	9	12
Parramatta Eagles	6	3	2	1	14	9	11
Blacktown	6	3	1	2	12	8	10
Canterbury	6	3	1	2	10	6	10
Eastern	6	3	0	3	7	8	9
Fairfield	6	3	0	3	7	11	9
Central Coast	6	2	2	2	10	12	8
Ryde City	6	2	1	3	12	9	7
Sutherland	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
Leichhardt	6	1	1	4	9	17	4
Bankstown City	6	1	1	4	6	14	4

SUPER LEAGUE: Youth Grade, Round 6

March 13/14
Blacktown City 1 Leichhardt Tigers 1
Central Coast 2 Ryde City 0
Sutherland Sharks 0 Bonnyrigg 0
Macarthur Rams 2 Bankstown City 0
Canterbury 0 Parramatta Eagles 3
Eastern Suburbs 2 Fairfield Bulls 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Macarthur Rams	6	5	0	1	10	3	15
Parramatta	6	4	1	1	22	5	13
Canterbury	6	3	2	1	4	10	11
Leichhardt	6	3	2	1	6	5	11
Eastern Suburbs	6	3	1	2	11	7	10
Blacktown City	6	2	3	1	10	8	9
Central Coast	6	2	1	3	9	10	7
Ryde City	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Bankstown City	6	2	0	4	11	16	6
Bonnyrigg	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Sutherland	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Fairfield Bulls	6	0	1	5	3	20	1

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:

UNDER 13:
Leichhardt Tigers 2 Parramatta Eagles 1
Wollongong Wolves 6 Gladesville Hornsby 1
Sydney United 4 Eastern Suburbs 1
Macarthur Rams 1 Marconi Fairfield 1
Southern Districts 2 Sutherland Sharks 0

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	home					away					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 South Melbourne	22	9	1	0	23	8	5	4	3	20	14
2 Perth Glory	22	7	1	3	25	10	5	2	3	22	15
3 Sydney United	23	8	2	2	25	12	5	1	5	15	16
4 Northern Spirit	22	7	2	2	15	7	5	0	6	15	22
5 Sydney Olympic	21	8	2	1	25	9	2	3	5	10	17
6 Adelaide City	21	7	3	1	25	9	3	1	6	10	12
7 Marconi Fairfield	2	7	1	3	27	16	3	2	6	12	24
8 Brisbane Strikers	21	6	4	2	19	12	3	1	5	11	19
9 Carlton	22	7	2	2	29	12	2	2	7	12	22
10 Newcastle Breakers	22	4	4	3	14	13	3	2	6	8	15
11 Wollongong City	21	4	4	2	20	13	2	2	7	12	25
12 Adelaide Sharks	21	4	4	3	21	16	2	2	6	10	20
13 Gippsland Falcons	20	3	2	5	6	13	1	3	6	7	24
14 Melbourne Knights	21	2	2	6	13	16	2	3	6	10	19
15 Canberra Cosmos	22	3	0	9	10	19	0	2	8	7	21

Newcastle Breakers 4 Manly Warringah 0
Blacktown City 9 Central Coast 0
Sydney Olympic 6 Southern Branch 0

UNDER 14:
Parramatta Eagles 2 Leichhardt Tigers 1
Wollongong Wolves 2 Gladesville Hornsby 1
Sydney United 3 Eastern Suburbs 1
Marconi Fairfield 3 Macarthur Rams 1
Southern Districts 1 Sutherland Sharks 0
Newcastle Breakers 1 Manly Warringah 0
Blacktown City 2 Central Coast 0
Sydney Olympic 2 Southern Branch 0

UNDER 15:
Leichhardt Tigers 2 Parramatta Eagles 0
Gladesville Hornsby 3 Wollongong Wolves 1
Sydney United 4 Eastern Suburbs 0
Marconi Fairfield 3 Macarthur Rams 0
Southern Districts 2 Sutherland Sharks 1

Newcastle Breakers 6 Manly Warringah 0
Blacktown City 3 Central Coast 0
Sydney Olympic 5 Southern Branch 0

UNDER 16:
Leichhardt Tigers 1 Parramatta Eagles 0
Wollongong Wolves 2 Gladesville Hornsby 1
Sydney United 3 Eastern Suburbs 0
Marconi Fairfield 3 Macarthur Rams 1
Southern Districts 1 Sutherland Sharks 1
Newcastle Breakers 4 Manly Warringah 2
Blacktown City 3 Central Coast 0
Sydney Olympic 4 Southern Branch 1

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE:

UNDER 13:
Bankstown Association 7 Canterbury M'ville 0
Illawarra Lions 3 Stanmore Hawks 0
Ryde City 2 Penrith Panthers 1
AC United 5 Rockdale City Suns 1
Blacktown Association 1 Hills United 0
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Fairfield Bulls 0
Canterbury Association 3 St George 1

UNDER 14:
Bankstown Association 2 Canterbury M'ville 0
Illawarra Lions 2 Stanmore Hawks 1
Ryde City 3 Penrith Panthers 1
AC United 3 Rockdale City Suns 1
Blacktown Association 4 Hills United 1
Bonnyrigg Eagles 4 Fairfield Bulls 1
Canterbury Association 3 St George 1

UNDER 15:
Bankstown Association 2 Canterbury M'ville 0
Illawarra Lions 5 Stanmore Hawks 4
Penrith Panthers 1 Ryde City 0
AC United 2 Rockdale City Suns 1
Fairfield Bulls 2 Bonnyrigg Eagles 1
Canterbury Association 2 St George 0

UNDER 16:
Bankstown Association 4 Canterbury M'ville 1
Illawarra Lions 4 Stanmore Hawks 2
Penrith Panthers 2 Ryde City 0
AC United 2 Rockdale City Suns 1
Fairfield Bulls 1 Bonnyrigg Eagles 1
St George 1 Canterbury Assoc 0

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

UNDER 11:
Illawarra Lions 6 Hurstville City 0

UNDER 12:
Illawarra Lions 5 Hurstville City 0

VICTORIA

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

March 13/14: Round 7
Port Melbourne Sharks 2 Green Gully 1
Kakos 2 Genovese
South Dandenong 6 Sunshine 1
van Egmond 3 Kindtner
Memeti
Kirichian
Villani

Altona East 1 Bentleigh Greens 1
Preston Lions 2 Fawkner Blues 1
Altona Magic 3 Springvale 2
Bulleen Inter Kings v Melbourne Raiders;
Westvale v St Albans Saints (playing Monday).

Under-21s - Round 6:
Green Gully Cavaliers 3 Port Melbourne 0
Sunshine Georgies 1 South Dandenong 1.

QUEENSLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

March 13/14: Round 4
Brisbane City 3 Toowoomba United 1
Ipswich Knights 2 Mt Gravatt 1
Gold Coast 0 Rockdale Rovers 7
Brisbane Lions 3 Wynnum 2
Bundaberg waves 1 Taringa Rovers 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Lions	4	4	0	0	13	6	12
Rockdale Rovers	4	3	0	1	15	4	9
Brisbane City	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
Bundaberg Waves	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Gold Coast	4	2	1	1	8	11	7
Taringa Rovers	4	2	0	2	8	3	6
Ipswich Knights	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
Mount Gravatt	4	0	2	2	6	9	2
Wynnum	4	0	0	4	3	12	0
Toowoomba United	4	0	0	4	3	14	0

DIVISION 1 NORTH

Mitchelton 2 Grange Thistle 1
Uni of Qld Pine Rivers 3
Albany Creek: bye
The Gap 0
North Star 2 Eastern Suburbs 1
Newmarket 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Star	3	3	0	0	13	5	9
Albany Creek	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Eastern Suburbs	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Pine Rivers	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Uni Qld	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Newmarket	3	1	0	2	7	7	3
Mitchelton	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Grange Thistle	4	0	2	2	5	10	2

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
AIS	23	17	5	1	85	14	56
Sydney Olympic	22	16	2	4	71	20	50
Marconi Fairfield	20	14	5	1	71	16	47
Newcastle Breakers	22	14	4	4	52	23	46
Northern Spirit	22	14	2	6	42	21	44
NSWIS	20	13	3	4	49	19	42
Wollongong Wolves	21	12	2	7	54	25	38
QAS	21	11	1	9	56	36	34
Sydney United	22	8	4	10	40	37	28
Marconi Fairfield Colts	20	5	4	11	19	34	19
ACTAS	21	4	3	14	29	55	15
Sydney United Colts	21	4	1	16	21	66	13
Northern Spirit Colts	21	3	3	15	19	81	12
Sydney Olympic Academy	22	1	4	17	15	87	7
Wollongong Wolves Colts	22	1	3	18	14	10	6

Southern Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Carlton	18	12	3	3	49	20	39
South Melbourne	19	11	3	5	33	19	36
VIS	16	8	4	4	32	26	28
Melbourne Knights	19	8	3	8	37	35	27
Gippsland Falcons	18	7	2	9	31	30	23
Bulleen Inter Kings	16	6	2	8	22	30	20
Albury Wodonga	18	1	1	16	18	62	4

The Gap 4 0 1 3 10 16 1

DIVISION 1 SOUTH

Acacia Ridge 0 Slacks Creek 4
Souths United 6 Beenleigh 0
Rocklea United v Inala City LKO
Capalaba v Olympic PP
Redlands United: bye

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rocklea United	3	3	0	0	13	6	9
Capalaba	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
Slacks Creek	4	2	0	2	9	7	6
Inala City	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Redlands United	3	1	1	1	7	9	4
Souths United	3	1	0	2	8	4	3
Olympic	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Acacia Ridge	4	0	2	2	4	11	2
Beenleigh	3	0	0	3	2	13	0

ILLAWARRA

CORRIMAL LEAGUES CLUB CUP:

Semi Finals: Sunday 14 March
Port Kembla 3 Shellharbour City 1
Kembla 3 Bulli 0

National Youth League

National Youth League

Southern Division
Saturday 13 March 1999
Bulleen 2 Gippsland Falcons 1
Sakaci, Mustac
Guglielmi

Sunday 14 March 1999
Carlton 2 South Melbourne 1
Ekici 2

Melbourne Knights 1 Albury Wodonga 2
Hulusi O'Grady
Pizzini

BYE: VIS

Northern Division

Round 23

Monday 8 March 1999

ACTAS 0

AIS 4

Demourtzidis

Pantelis

Cvetanovski

Milicevic

Round 22

Wednesday 10 March 1999

Newcastle Breakers 6

Wollongong Colts 1

Wheeler 2 Tanchevski

Ross own goal

Tzolakidis

Majurovski

Round 24

Saturday 13 March 1999

Marconi Fairfield 3

Newcastle Breakers 1

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SCOREBOARD

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Beecham
Haggar
Tomich

Tanchevski

AIS 8
Gulesserian 3
Brodie 2
Kennedy 2
Bryatt

Olympic Academy 0

Sydney United Colts 1
Badjkovic

Northern Spirit Colts 2
Macrae
Prentice

Sunday 14 March 1999
Marconi Colts 4

QAS 3
Filewood 2
Drake)

Wollongong Wolves 2
Karavatakis
Bishop

Sydney United 1
Bosevski

Sydney Olympic 7
Carle 3
Miot
Kohler
Gonzalez
Biviano

Wollongong Colts 0

Round 17
Sydney United Colts 0

Northern Spirit 7
Watkins 3
Paul Foster 2
Snyder
Milovanovic

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday 13 March
Marconi Fairfield 0

Newcastle Breakers 1
T Haythornthwaite 8

Venue: Marconi Stadium
Crowd: 4,211
Referee: M Shield
Cautions: S Pryce (NB) 22, S Babic (MF) 35, D McDonald (MF) 62

Sunday 14 March
Carlton 0

South Melbourne 3
N Orlic 7, 35
S Panopoulos 54

Venue: Olympic Park
Crowd: 7,971
Referee: B Hugo
Cautions: L Lapsansky (CSC)

Sydney Olympic 1
N Tome 43

Adelaide Sharks 0

Venue: Belmore Sports Grd
Crowd: 3,159
Referee: G Connolly
Cautions: M Durakovic (SO) 6', P Souris (AS) 44; H Thorpe (AS) 81;

Melbourne Knights 3
I Kutlesovski 49
I Kelic 71, 87

Canberra Cosmos 0

Venue: Knights Stadium
Crowd: 2,536
Referee: C Diomis
Cautions: A Kovacevic (MK) 22'; M John (MK) 34'; G Gonzalez (CC) 36'; D Nasteviski (MK) 62'; I Kelic (MK) 75'; G Barlow (CC) 80'

Perth Glory 1
A Edwards pen 42

Gippsland Falcons 0

Venue: Perth Oval
Crowd: 12,880
Referee: J Tippett
Cautions: L Osman (GF) 17'; C Deans (PG) 31'; P Strudwick (PG) 34'; B Jevdjovic (GF) 70'; C Bell (GF) 70'; J Hopkins (GF) 74;
Red Cards: C Deans (PG) 41'; D Milosevic (PG) 59'; A Savage (GF) 59'

Wollongong City 0

Sydney United 1
N Day 42

Venue: Brandon Park
Crowd: 3,528
Referee: S Micallef
Cautions: D Huxley (WW) 21; S Chipperfield (WW) 55'; N Day (SU) 58'; R Plesa (SU) 77';
Red Cards: D Huxley (WW) 74'

Adelaide City 3
L Brain 43

Brisbane Strikers 0

A Tobin 49
D Mori 53
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Crowd: 5,828
Referee: E Lennie
Cautions: nil

Leading Ericsson Cup Scorers

17 Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)
13 Damian MORI (ADL)
12 Brad MALONEY (MARC)
11 Vaughan COVENY (SMEL)
11 John MARKOVSKI (PRTH)
11 Alex MOREIRA (CARL)
11 Mile STERJOVSKI (SUTD)
10 Ivan KELIC (MELK)
9 Peter BULJAN (CANB)
9 Michael CURCIJA (SMEL)
8 Joel GRIFFITHS (SUTD)
8 Archie THOMPSON (CARL, +4 GIPS)
7 Con BOUTSIANIS (PRTH)
7 Bobby DESPOTOVSKI (PRTH)
7 Derek POIMER (ADSH)
7 Kresimir MARUSIC (SPRT)
7 Norman TOME (SOLY)
7 Robbie SLATER (SPRT)
7 Joe TRICARICO (CARL)
6 Francis AWARITEFE (MARC)
6 John GIBSON (ADSH)
6 Brad HASSELL (ADLC)
5 John ANASTASIADIS (SMEL)
5 Alistair EDWARDS (PRTH)
5 Jeromy HARRIS (BRIS)
5 Sasho PETROVSKI (WOLL)
5 Anthony SURJAN (WOLL)
5 Kris TRAJANOVSKI (MARC)
4 Zeljko BABIC (MARC)
4 Marco BRESCIANO (CARL)
4 John BUONAVOGLIA (NEWC)
4 Simon COLOSIMO (CARL)
4 Nathan DAY (SUTD)
4 Alex DURIC (ADSH)
4 Matt HORSLEY (WOLL)
4 Sang-Choi YOON (NEWC)
4 Ray YOUNIS (WOLL)
3 Walter ARDONE (SUTD)

3 Graham ARNOLD (SPRT)
3 Corey ARTONE (ADSH)
3 Michael GARCIA (PRTH)
3 Chad GIBSON (MARC)
3 Troy HALPIN (PRTH)
3 Des HUGHES (BRIS)
3 Ivo de JESUS (CANB)
3 Chris KALANTZIS (SOLY)
3 Vas KALOGERACOS (PRTH)
3 Harry KARL (MELK)
3 Ice KUTLESOVSKI (MELK)
3 Lubo LAPSANSKY (CARL)
3 Stephen LAYBUTT (BRIS)
3 Goran LOZANOVSKI (SMEL)
3 Stuart McLAREN (BRIS)
3 Brian MacNICOL (GIPS)
3 Dino MENNILLO (ADLC)
3 Scott MILLER (PRTH)
3 Levent OSMAN (GIPS)
3 Greg OWENS (NEWC)
3 Joel PORTER (ADSH)
3 Reece TOLLENAERE (BRIS)
3 Paul TRIMBOLI (SMEL)
3 Carl VEART (ADLC)
3 Daniel WATKINS (SPRT)
2 Elias AUGERINOS (SOLY)
2 Tansel BASER (SMEL)
2 Paul BILOKAPIC (SPRT)
2 Michael BROOKS (WOLL)
2 Christian CARE (MARC)
2 David CERVINSKI (MELK)
2 Scott CHIPPERFIELD (WOLL)
2 Sean CRANNEY (BRIS)
2 Brett EMERTON (SOLY)
2 Tommy HAYTHORNTHWAITE (NEWC)
2 Chay HEWS (BRIS)
2 Ante JURIC (SOLY)
2 Dongi Ki KIM (ADLC)
2 Pan KIM (MARC)
2 Andrew MARTH (CARL)
2 Nick ORLIC (SMEL)
2 Jason POLAK (SMEL)
2 Shane PRYCE (NEWC)
2 Paul REID (WOLL)
2 Mark RUDAN (SPRT)
2 Michael SANTALAB (SUTD)
2 Mike SMITH (MARC)
2 Zelko SUSA (MELK)
2 Dino TERMINELLO (ADLC)
2 Hamilton THORPE (ADSH)



Leading scorer Pablo Cardozo of Sydney Olympic

2 Alex TOBIN (ADLC)
2 Danny VIDAKOVIC (ADSH)
2 Andy VLAHOS (CARL)
2 Kasey WEHRMAN (BRIS)
2 Mark WILSON (NEWC)
2 Clayton ZANE (SPRT)
2 Chris ZORICICH (BRIS)
1 Richie ALAGICH (ADSH)
1 Ransford BANINI (MELK)
1 David BARRETT (SUTD)
1 Sasho BECVINOVSKI (GIPS)
1 Clayton BELL (GIPS)
1 Matt BELL (BRIS)
1 Peter BENNETT (SUTD)
1 Steve BERRY (SUTD)
1 Matt BINGLEY (SPRT)
1 Louis BRAIN (ADLC)
1 Vinko BULJUBASIC (PRTH)
1 Jacob BURNS (SUTD)
1 Nick CARLE (OLY)
1 Joe CALETA (SUTD)
1 Alex CASTRO (ADSH)
1 Alvin CECCOLI (WOLL)
1 Adrian CERVINSKI (SOLY)
1 Giancarlo CIRCATI (PRTH)
1 David CLARKON (SMEL)
1 Ian CROOK (SPRT)
1 Jason CULINA (SOLY)
1 Michael CUNICO (SPRT)
1 Saso DIMOSKI (WOLL)
1 Steve EAGLETON (UTD)
1 Robbie ENES (SPRT)
1 Andy HARPER (BRIS)
1 Will HASTIE (GIPS)
1 Danny HAY (PRTH)
1 Karl HROVJE (MELK)

1 Harry JAMES (NEWC)
1 Ivo de JESUS (CANB)
1 Alex JOSIFOVSKI (CARL)
1 teve KARAVATAKIS (WOLL)
1 Hrovje KARL (MELK)
1 Alex KIRATZOGLOU (MELK)
1 Leo LANGONE (CANB)
1 Dominic LONGO (MARC)
1 Darren McDONALD (MARC)
1 Paul MAGDIC (MELK)
1 Doug MARCINA (CANB)
1 Esala MASI (WOLL)
1 Robbie MARKOVAC (CARL)
1 Nick MEREDITH (BRIS)
1 Scott MILLER (PRTH)
1 Branko MILOSEVIC (ADSH)
1 David MITCHELL (SUTD)
1 Gareth NAVEN (PRTH)
1 Jade NORTH (BRIS)
1 Steve PANOPOULOS (SMEL)
1 Marko PERINOVIC (GIPS)
1 Marcus PHILLIPS (MARC)
1 Richard PLESA (SUTD)
1 Tom PONDELJAK (MELK)
1 Adem PORIC (SPRT)
1 Joe RAHJER (MELK)
1 Michael REDA (WOLL)
1 Kosta SALAPASIDIS (WOLL)
1 Robert SHANNON (NEWC)
1 Marcus STERGIOPOULOS (CARL)
1 Noel SPENCER (WOLL)
1 Paul STRUDWICK (PRTH)
1 Danny TOWNSEND (SUTD)
1 Jim TSEKINIS (SMEL)
1 Joe VRKIC (SUTD)
1 Brad WIECZOREK (NEWC)
1 Mark YATES (ADLC)

RAM SPORTS

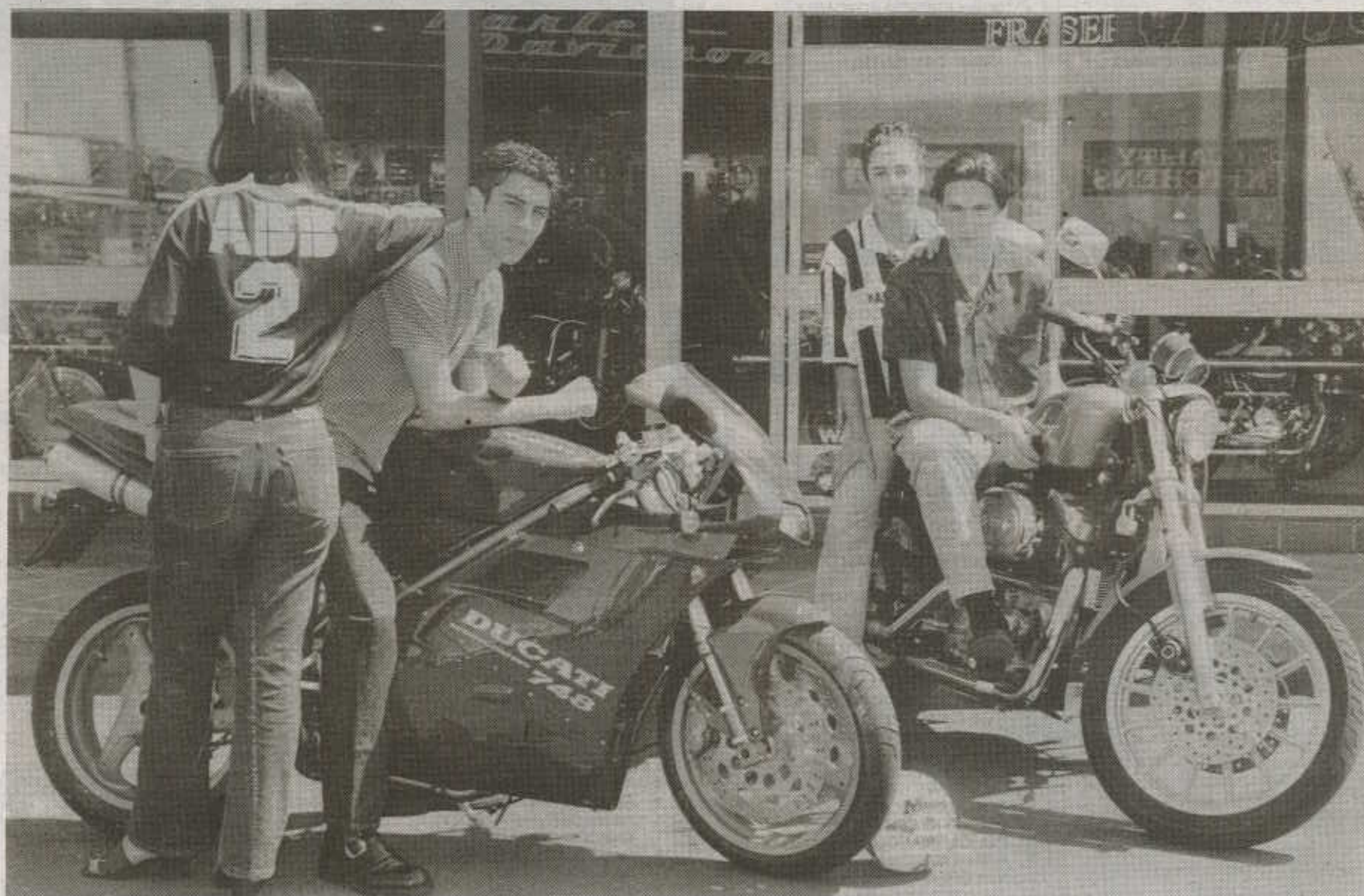
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**PORT KEMBLA SC
PRESENTATION NIGHT
FRIDAY 19 MARCH
AT THE FRAT**